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Central African Republic

Death of Liberal Republican Party Leader Reported

AB2403154592 Paris AFP in French 1232 GMT
23 Mar 92

[Text] Bangui, 23 Mar (AFP)—Tandalet Hozì-Okito, chairman of the Liberal Republican Party (PARELI), one of the officially recognized political parties in the Central African Republic [CAR], died this morning after a short illness, an official source disclosed in Bangui this morning.

Tandalet Hozì-Okito, 50, a native of Mbaiki (southwest), returned to CAR in 1978 after living several years in exile in some African countries, in France, and in the United States. In 1980, he took part in the "national forum on the social and political future" of the country. In 1991, the PARELI chairman served as deputy chairman of the Constitutional Review Commission whose deliberations paved the way for political pluralism in CAR. He also chaired the committee that drafted the texts governing the access of political parties to the public media during the government-political party consultation in January this year. On 21 March, Tandalet Hozì-Okito took part in a fresh consultation meeting between the government and the parties aimed, among others, at setting up a national committee to prepare the "broad-based national debate" (national conference) for which no date has yet been set.

Zaire

Cabinet Meeting Examines 'Political Deadlock'

LD2503173392 Kinshasa Zaire OZRT Television
Network in French 1230 GMT 25 Mar 92

[Report by Kitenge Yezu, government spokesman and minister of communications, on proceedings at 24 March cabinet meeting—recorded]

[Excerpt] This Tuesday, 24 March 1992, Prime Minister Jean Nguz A Karl-I-Bond chaired an extraordinary cabinet meeting devoted mainly to the situation of political deadlock experienced by the country and a continuation of the examination of the state budget for the 1992 fiscal year.

There is scarcely any need to bring to the public's attention the fact that the president of the Republic successively received Mgr Laurent Monsengwo, president of the Provisional Bureau of the National Forum, on 29 February 1992, and the prime minister of the Government of Broad National Union Mr. Jean Nguz A Karl-I-Bond on 10 and 11 March 1992, with the aim of seeing the work of the sovereign national conference launched in the best possible conditions. The head of state recommended that these two personalities meet with a view to examining together the appropriate ways and means for an immediate resumption of the proceedings of the sovereign national conference.

However, as announced at the end of the cabinet meeting on Friday 20 March 1992, the initiatives undertaken by the prime minister on Sunday 15 March in his capacity as the organizing authority of the sovereign national conference with the purpose of inviting the prelate to a face-to-face meeting set for Tuesday 17 March turned out to be fruitless. Hence, the prime minister and organizing authority reported this refusal to the president of the Republic.

The government considers that at the current stage of the negotiations on resuming the proceedings of the sovereign national conference, this state of affairs represents a regrettable hindrance to the democratic process which began on 24 April 1990.

Faced with such a serious situation, which risks paralyzing national life in general and political activity in particular, the prime minister considers that in his capacity as organizing authority he has to undertake a series of consultations with the people and also with various personalities from the political, economic, religious, scientific, administrative, cultural and many other fields, starting on Wednesday, 25 March 1992. It is pointed out that at the end of all these consultations, the prime minister will draw up for the head of state a comprehensive report on the current situation in the country so that appropriate solutions can be found to them, to safeguard at all costs the process of democratization, the only path which will lead to the third republic.

In any case, the Government of Broad National Union says it is open to dialogue, while reaffirming its determination and full desire to assume its responsibilities as guarantor of public order, the security of people and property, and respect for the law.

In the light of the statement made by the spokesman of the radical wing of the Sacred Union following its conclave held at the (Nganda) center, the government of the Republic publicly denounces the plan orchestrated by members of this political trend to destabilize the country, a plan which they are concealing, with undisclosed aims, by means of all sorts of strategies and maneuvers, which are expressed sometimes by constant and persistent threats and sometimes by actions to manipulate and brainwash the population with systematic attacks directed against the government. Proof of such a destabilization plan can be seen, for instance, through the reference made in the statement of the radical wing of the Sacred Union relating to the preparation by the government of a so-called massacre of foreigners residing in Zaire with the aim of ascribing responsibility for such an event to this political trend, for the needs of the cause.

The government here denies in the most categorical manner the truth of such a report, the current aim of which is to sow confusion and panic in the minds of

expatriates and consequently to discourage those of them who are in the country from remaining here and make those who wish to come or return to Zaire give up this idea. On the other hand the government is aware of the plans of the armed militia of certain opposition political parties aimed in fact at attacking expatriates in order in this way to sow distress and terror among them with the hoped for result of making Western governments decide to ask their nationals to leave Zaire, on the grounds that the government here is unable to guarantee their safety.

The government of the Republic appeals to all people of goodwill, both local and foreign, to display calm, to continue to have confidence in Zaire and to help it surmount the difficulties of the moment through their constructive ideas and daily activities. The government of the Republic for its part will not fail in its mission of maintaining order and security throughout the national territory.

On economic matters, the cabinet continued examining the draft state budget for the 1992 fiscal year. The discussions will resume at forthcoming sessions. [passage omitted]

State Secretary for Communication Quits Post

LD2503211792 Kinshasa Zaire OZRT Television Network in French 1900 GMT 25 Mar 92

[Studio interview with Kadura Kasongo, state secretary for communication, by announcer Yengi—live]

[Excerpts] [Yengi] Before going on to foreign news, we have invited to this studio the state secretary for communication, our colleague Kadura Kasongo, who has a certain number of issues to raise. Mr. Kadura Kasongo, thank you for having answered our invitation. Mr. Kadura, as soon as you arrived at the Communication Ministry, you said—if I remember correctly—that you would pay particular attention to equal media access for political parties. Well, we have the impression that nothing is being done in that direction.

[Kadura Kasongo] First of all, thank you Mr. Yengi for allocating me these few minutes this evening to express myself, despite a heavily loaded bulletin. Earlier I saw a series of messages earlier in the bulletin reporting that I am not going back. I would like in fact to say that when one takes up a post in a ministry, one takes up political responsibilities which are like mine at the moment [as heard]. One has a program, and one has the determination to achieve something. However, it happens that one is confronted by a certain number of problems of various kinds, which could be of moral order, material order, financial order, etc., and I think what is essential is to finally say whether or not one is capable of achieving something.

For the moment I have to say that nothing is working out. I do not think it is necessary to elaborate on this. As far as I am concerned, one should be quite honest to admit that there is a lot to be done and that at the moment there are not

enough conditions for resolving the crisis. For this reason, I do not approve of this policy which will always continue down the path of no change, when all of you have been awaiting change since our entry into this government. I think that nothing is being done.

Today, access is for all practical purposes reserved to a certain number of persons and not to everybody [word indistinct]. Access to information is part of those essential values, I must say. There is also the problem of political currents. We do not think in the same way, and when we do not think the same way, I think there is no choice other than leaving.

So I am solemnly telling you this evening, before the microphone, that I could not achieve what I wanted during the past two or three months. I think others who replace me will do better than me. This is what I wanted to say concerning the first aspect.

[Yengi] So you are clearly saying that you are leaving?

[Kadura Kasongo] I say clearly that I am leaving. I think that I could not be in contradiction with the course I have always maintained as the opposition spokesman in the National Assembly on media questions. I think that your rights are not sufficiently defended, and I have to harmonize my political views with my conscience. [passage omitted] To make this clear, I inform you that this evening I wrote a letter which I will give to the head of the government tomorrow to inform him on my pre-occupations as a member of the government. I will also give it to the secretary general of the party.

[Yengi] Well, I think you have had the privilege of witnessing, live, the resignation of State Secretary Kadura Kasongo.

Opposition Sets Ultimatum on Conference Resumption

AB2503122592 Libreville Africa No. 1 in French 1830 GMT 24 Mar 92

[Text] In Zaire, the opposition is adopting a harsher tone with the Kinshasa government which has still not decided on the resumption of the sovereign national conference. It has set an ultimatum, giving the government up to midnight, 2 April, to resume the conference, failing which—according to its communique—the opposition Sacred Union would embark on a concrete, logical action program. Hence, the Zairian opposition urges foreign businesses in Zaire to make the necessary arrangements for the security of their nationals as of 2 April. Government reaction: The Zairian minister of defense described this ultimatum as degrading. This, at any rate, is not the opinion of Kibassa-Maliba, current chairman of the radical wing of the Sacred Union. For him, the only way out is the sovereign national conference:

[Begin recording] [Kibassa-Makiba] Let this conference be resumed unconditionally first, then within its framework—at the conference—the Sacred Union will be open to any kind of discussion on any question whatsoever. Let the conference be resumed first.

[Unidentified reporter] In any case, however, the deadlock must end. Do you have solutions or proposals to that end?

[Kibassa-Makiba] The conference has already validated the powers of its members. There are already 2,300

members whose powers were validated by the conference, in other words, whose powers were democratically validated. We believe that this other decision to reduce the number cannot be made by a subcomponent or a single component of the conference. The government is merely a subcomponent of the public institutions component. It has no right to make such a decision all alone. Only the three components convened to the national conference can make any decision, any decision at all. Our people will help us to banish dictatorship. Dictatorship will be banished and democracy will be established. [end recording]

Kenya**FORD Gives Government Week To Lift Rally Ban***EA2503221192 Nairobi KTN Television in English
1600 GMT 25 Mar 92*

[Text] The steering committee of the Forum for the Restoration of Democracy, FORD, today gave the government one week within which to lift the ban placed on political rallies. In a statement read to the press by the party interim chairman, Oginga Odinga, the committee said that if the government failed to lift the ban the party will go ahead and organize peaceful rallies in exercise of their democratic rights of free association and assembly.

Odinga termed the ban on the rallies as a strategy by KANU [Kenya African National Union] to muzzle the opposition. He said that the FORD rallies that had been banned were not within 100-miles radius of the areas worse affected by the clashes that rocked the country. Odinga said that if the suspension was supposed to ease the tension in areas of conflict then it was a contradiction that KANU still went ahead to hold a series of meetings in those same areas.

Somalia**President, UN Envoy Discuss Cease-Fire, Aid***EA2603065892 Mogadishu Voice of the Somali
Republic in Somali 1700 GMT 25 Mar 92*

[Text] Mr. Ali Mahdi Mohamed, the president of the Somali Republic, today at his office received Mr. Muhammad (Tanui), a special envoy of Dr. Butrus Ghali, the UN secretary general. The envoy delivered a message from Dr. Butrus Ghali regarding the current problems in Somalia and ways of solving them. During their meeting, the president and envoy discussed at length the cease-fire, distribution of food and how to attain a lasting solution to the situation in Mogadishu.

Mr. Ali Mahdi Mohamed briefed the special envoy on the overall situation in the country and possible ways of implementing the cease-fire agreement. The president expressed his concern over the hunger being experienced by Somalis, saying that some had already died as a result. He therefore appealed to the world to give Somalia special attention. President Mahdi also told the envoy that the government would welcome any steps that

would serve the future of the Somali people. The president said that in order to distribute relief food effectively, there must be peace, and he added that to achieve this firearms should be collected from civilians and a UN peace-keeping force brought in. He appealed to the envoy to ascertain the wishes of society in this regard.

For his part, Mr. (Tanui) said that apart from delivering the message, he had come to Somalia in order to discover the state of implementation of the cease-fire agreement. He said that the United Nations was ready to send massive aid to Somalia, particularly Mogadishu. He said the Somali people should know their own interests and sort out their internal affairs peacefully. The envoy also told the president that Dr. Butrus Ghali, the UN secretary general, took a great interest in Somali affairs, adding that he wanted to persuade UN Security Council members to help resolve Somali affairs.

Tanzania**Government Relaxes Foreign Exchange Regulations***EA2503153592 Dar es Salaam Radio Tanzania
Network in Swahili 0330 GMT 25 Mar 92*

[From the press review]

[Text] The story which leads in both dailies this morning, beginning with the DAILY NEWS, is that the government has relaxed foreign exchange regulations. This story is given second prominence in UHURU.

The government has greatly relaxed regulations on foreign exchange. Now anyone is allowed to enter the country with any amount of foreign exchange and keep it. The minister for finance, Brother Stephen Kibona, announced in Dar es Salaam yesterday that since 16 March, anybody is allowed to enter the country with any amount of foreign currency of any country.

According to UHURU Brother Kibona said that since 16 March, to be stopped and found with foreign exchange was no longer an offense, and he added that all those with cases concerning foreign currency since that date should consider themselves innocent. Concerning those who had been facing charges before that date, Minister Kibona said that his ministry would seek advice from the attorney general regarding their case, according to the DAILY NEWS.

Further on Visit by Angolan Defense Minister

Meets Defense Minister, de Klerk

MB2603054992 Johannesburg SABC TV 1 Network
in Afrikaans 2000 GMT 25 Mar 92

[Text] South African Defense Minister Roelf Meyer says the South African Defense Force has agreed to train Angolan soldiers to trace and deactivate mines which were laid during 15 years of war by fighting groups. He and the Angolan Defense Minister, Colonel General Pedro Maria Tonha, held talks in Cape Town on various aspects regarding military cooperation between the two countries.

General Tonha and Bernardo de Miranda, the Angolan deputy minister of foreign affairs, also visited State President F.W. de Klerk at Tuynhuys. Mr. de Klerk announced that relations between the two countries are currently very positive, and South Africa's intentions to assist with the rebuilding of Angola are going according to plan.

Receives Maps on Minefields

MB2503202192 Luanda Radio Nacional Network
in Portuguese 1900 GMT 25 Mar 92

[Text] The mine removal process could go move more quickly now. The South African Government has already given Angola documents concerning the location of the minefields laid by the South African Army. South African Defense Minister Roelf Meyer confirmed the handing over of those maps after a meeting with Angolan Defense Minister Pedro Maria Tonha, who is visiting that country. The South African official guaranteed that the Buffalo Battalion, also known as 32 Battalion, which was mostly made up of Angolan staff, is no longer linked to the South African Army, and he cannot answer for it.

During his continuing visit, Defense Minister Pedro Maria Tonha is expected to meet tomorrow, or later, with representatives of an estimated 12,000-strong Angolan community in South Africa. Minister Pedro Maria Tonha is accompanied by Joao Miranda, deputy foreign affairs minister for communities abroad.

Mexico Lifts Trade Sanctions, To Establish Ties

MB2503091292 Johannesburg South African
Broadcasting Corporation Network in English
0500 GMT 25 Mar 92

[Text] Mexico has announced that it is to lift its five-year-old ban on trade with South Africa immediately and that it is to establish diplomatic relations with this country.

The Mexican Foreign Ministry said in a statement in Mexico City that diplomats from the two countries would hold a series of high-level talks in the next few weeks on the establishment of diplomatic relations. Travel restrictions on South Africans have also been lifted but a ban on military exports remains in place.

The department gave the progress towards the dismantling of apartheid as the reason for the change in policy.

ANC: Agreement Near on Control of Joint Army

MB2603091692 Johannesburg BUSINESS DAY
in English 26 Mar 92 pp 1, 2

[Report by Patrick Bulger: "Accord on Armed Forces in the Offing"]

[Text] Government and the ANC [African National Congress] were nearing agreement on the future of SA's [South Africa's] armed forces—including Umkhonto we Sizwe [Spear of the Nation; ANC military wing] (MK)—and their control by an interim multiparty committee drawn from Codesa [Convention for a Democratic South Africa], senior ANC sources said yesterday.

"We seem to agree on this approach," said an ANC source close to the bilateral ANC-government negotiations on the armed struggle.

The talks have focused on issues outstanding in the implementation of the Pretoria Minute and the D.F. Malan Accord, in terms of which the armed struggle was suspended and government agreed to release political prisoners and allow the return of exiles.

Defence Minister Roelf Meyer, Justice Minister Kobie Coetsee and Law and Order Minister Hernus Kriel yesterday repeated government's insistence that the level of political violence be reduced and that the ANC finally renounce the armed struggle and mass action before an interim government came into being. They would not comment on progress in bilateral talks.

However, the bilateral agreement now being worked on—the ANC source said "we only need to iron out the finer details"—would pave the way for integration of the armed forces of SA and the TBVC [Transkei, Bophuthatswana, Venda, Ciskei] states. The multiparty committee would help decide the future of Umkhonto and, by placing the armed forces under joint control, remove the threat of the SADF which the ANC argues is the reason for Umkhonto's existence. Under such an agreement the ANC would be prepared to end the armed struggle, the ANC sources said.

Government, in its proposals on interim rule tabled at Codesa on Monday [23 March], made provision for a transitional council on defence matters which would determine the role of the security forces under a new constitution.

While such a council at present has no specific executive capacity, government has indicated that its duties and powers are open to negotiation.

At the same time ANC secretary-general Cyril Ramaphosa said the bilateral talks were proceeding well and he was confident the Umkhonto issue could be resolved soon.

Senior government sources have indicated they regard the principle of renouncing the armed struggle as being as important as the actual demobilisation and disbandment of Umkhonto.

The ANC source said other aspects of the talks were an agreement that Umkhonto remain intact outside SA's borders but that it return only once a new democratic constitution was in place.

Related to the Umkhonto issue are the fate of the remaining political prisoners and those exiles who have not been able to return in terms of the agreement between the SA government and the UN High Commissioner for Refugees. Although the prisoner and exile problem was tabled at Codesa, it was referred to bilateral discussions between the ANC and the government.

Billy Paddock reports from Cape Town that government's Codesa negotiators yesterday sent a blunt and urgent warning to the ANC and Inkatha to start talking to each other and stop using violence as a political tool.

Security Ministers also made it clear that mass action "was definitely not desirable in a society in transition."

Kriel warned that black leaders should stop using violence to improve their political leverage, insisting that no progress could be made in negotiating an acceptable transitional government in the absence of order and stability.

"When it comes to violence, the police, with the assistance of the SADF, have the responsibility to handle the situation but there is a duty on black leaders to go to grassroots level and tell their supporters to stop fighting," Kriel said.

Referring to Inkatha leader Mangosuthu Buthelezi's statement that his party would be embarking on mass action, Kriel said government was having discussions with Buthelezi over this issue because it was highly undesirable.

"Government accepts that peaceful demonstrations and action are an inherent part of democracy but we stress that this has to be peaceful and very often these mass actions lead to violence," he said.

Coetsee said there was clear evidence that parties to the peace accord had violated the terms of the agreement regularly. Even the peace committee had referred cases to the Goldstone commission, which had found these parties were responsible for causing violence and intimidation for political ends.

Kriel said 30 percent of the police had been removed from combating crime in order to contain political violence.

ANC: MK Hand Over Only To Interim Government

*MB2603094092 Umtata Capital Radio in English
0800 GMT 26 Mar 92*

[Text] There have been reports that an agreement will soon be reached on the joint control of the SADF [South

African Defense Force] and the ANC's [African National Congress] armed wing, but senior Umkhonto we Sizwe [Spear of the Nation—MK] commander Tokyo Sexgwa says the ANC will only hand over control of MK to an interim government.

[Begin Sexgwa recording] We have had bilateral talks with the government, starting from Groote Schuur, then the Pretoria Minute, D.F. Malan, and we agreed during these bilateral talks that the question of Umkhonto we Sizwe can only be resolved when an interim government of national unity has been established in the country, and this is in line with certain, what do you call it, objectives of Codesa [Convention for a Democratic South Africa]. As soon as an interim government of national unity has been set up in this country, only then shall we of the ANC consider handing over our own armed force to this new government. But we shall never, I must repeat, we shall never hand over our soldiers, our workforce, our only suit of protection to this government which has got the history of brutality against our people. [end recording]

ANC's Sisulu Recommends Dropping Sanctions Policy

*MB2503091392 Umtata Capital Radio in English
0500 GMT 25 Mar 92*

[Text] ANC [African National Congress] leader, Walter Sisulu, says his organization should drop its sanctions policy because countries are simply ignoring it.

The ANC's official policy on sanctions is that they should stay in place until there's an interim government. But the organization's deputy president says the ANC may have to make an earlier move because governments have ignored the policy and are unilaterally lifting curbs.

NP Welcomes ANC's Remarks on Ending Sanctions

*MB2503174692 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1734 GMT 25 Mar 92*

[Text] Cape Town March 25 SAPA—The National Party [NP] has welcomed ANC [African National Congress] Deputy President Walter Sisulu's statement that the organization could be forced to call for an end to sanctions earlier than planned because several foreign governments had lifted the ban unilaterally. Mr Sisulu on Tuesday [24 March] also said sanctions were hurting blacks.

The NP, in a statement on Wednesday, called on ANC President Nelson Mandela and Secretary General Cyril Ramoaphosa to publicly support Mr Sisulu's view. "Mr Sisulu's frank, but overdue, admission that the ANC's calls for continued sanctions have been ignored and that in any case (they) were harming blacks, does the organization credit.

"The fact is that on the issue of sanctions the ANC has already lost the initiative and sensible governments around the world have for some time ignored the ANC's calls for sanctions," the NP said.

COSATU's Naidoo Defends Nationalization Policy

*MB2503145492 Umtata Capital Radio in English
1400 GMT 25 Mar 92*

[Text] COSATU [Congress of South African Trade Unions] says it will not easily abandon its policy of nationalization. COSATU Secretary General Jay Naidoo told a news conference the trade union federation will not be bullied into giving up nationalization. Pule Pelatse reports:

[Begin recording] [Pelatse] ANC [African National Congress] President Nelson Mandela has said local and international pressure is forcing his organization to reconsider the policy of nationalization. But Naidoo says nationalization is an important instrument to achieve the economic goals of what he calls the democratic movement.

[Naidoo, in progress] ...addressing the legacy of apartheid, creating jobs, creating wealth, and making us internationally competitive.

[Pelatse] COSATU has been strongly critical of the government's decision to reimpose VAT [value-added tax] on a range of basic foodstuffs. Naidoo says this will lead to increased starvation. He says COSATU will discuss how to combat the government's plan at its economic summit this weekend. [end recording]

Border-Ciskei Resolution Committee Head Resigns

*MB2603081192 Johannesburg South African
Broadcasting Corporation Network in English
0500 GMT 26 Mar 92*

[Text] The chairman of the Border-Ciskei Conflict Resolution Committee, Mr. Reg Mason, has resigned, saying he is tired of beating his head against a brick wall in his efforts to bring peace to the region. In his resignation letter Mr. Mason questioned the commitment of the South African and Ciskeian Governments to the peace process. He criticized the ANC [African National Congress] for its campaign against the Ciskei and the delay that the dispute had caused to the peace development program in the region. Mr. Mason accused the Ciskeian government of ignoring an offer by the National Peace Secretariat to assist in the dispute with the ANC.

8,000 Miners Stay Away From Work After Fighting

*MB2403145192 Johannesburg BUSINESS DAY
in English 24 Mar 92 p 1*

[Report by Stephane Bothma: "Miners stay away after 13 killed in clashes"]

[Text] Impala Platinum's Bafokeng North mine in Bophuthatswana came to a halt yesterday when its 8,000 employees failed to report for work after 13 miners died in intergroup fighting.

Seven were reported dead after fighting broke out at the mine hostel, but the toll increased to 13 yesterday when more bodies were found near the hostel after renewed clashes.

Genmin said yesterday the workforce had failed to report for work and 700 Sotho employees had asked to leave. Impala's three other Bophuthatswana mines were not affected. Workers' representatives said the workforce would report for duty today.

The Sotho workers will return later.

Genmin said the violence broke out at the hostel on Saturday [21 March] afternoon between NUM [National Union of Mineworkers] supporters and non-supporters. Bophuthatswana security forces were called in to help mine security personnel separate the two fighting groups. Several employees were treated for injuries.

Genmin said management was talking to employee representatives to establish the cause of the fighting and the stayaway.

Meanwhile, Dirk Hartford reports that more than 2,000 members of the Batlhaping tribe yesterday heard deposed chief Mankuroane condemn Bophuthatswana President Lucas Mangope for ordering the arrest of several people who allegedly disrupted a meeting of Mangope's among the Batlhaping people two weeks ago.

Mankuroane said at the meeting Mangope was presented with a memorandum from Batlhaping royal family members demanding the return of the Batlhaping chief and Taung's reincorporation into SA [South Africa]. He said this led to the break-up of the meeting and eight people were detained.

Mankuroane is a delegate of Codesa's [Convention for a Democratic South Africa] working group 4.

Iscor Dismisses 800 Miners After Hostage Incident

*MB2603112292 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1108 GMT 26 Mar 92*

[Text] Johannesburg Mar 26 SAPA—Iscor [South African Iron and Steel Corporation] has dismissed 800 miners after they held 15 mine officials hostage for 12 hours at Durnacol coal plant near Dannhauser in Natal.

In a letter to the National Union of Mineworkers [NUM] on Thursday, Iscor said it was gravely concerned with the way the union and its members behaved despite existing negotiated agreements.

"Despite the mine management's best efforts to ensure labour stability at the mine, inter-tribal violence and strikes compounded by Tuesday's criminal and illegal actions and the failure to establish a sound basis for normal employee/employer relationships have led to extensive losses in production, the sabotage of equipment, the holding of hostages and threats to co-workers' safety.

"This left Iscor with no choice but to dismiss the employees involved.

"All dismissed employees have been given until 4 PM today (Thursday) to bring personal or mitigating circumstances to management's attention."

Iscor said the mine would resume production as soon as possible.

The strike started when the 800 miners went underground about 6.15 AM on Tuesday and immediately embarked on a strike. They then took 20 white mine officials and two Indian miners hostage. Six managed to escape.

The miners had demanded a salary increase before they would release the hostages, but agreed to release them 12 hours later after lengthy negotiations with top officials from the NUM.

SAPA has sought comment from the NUM.

* De Klerk, ANC Wooing Colored Population

92AF05231 Paris LE MONDE in French 7 Mar 92
pp 1, 4

[Article by LE MONDE correspondent Frederic Fritscher: "Neither White nor Black"—first paragraph is LE MONDE introduction; italicized words as published]

[Text] Conservative, Christian, and Afrikaans-speaking, the colored population of South Africa is the object of the solicitude both of Mr. De Klerk and of the ANC [African National Congress].

Cape-town—Mitchells Plain, a bleak plain! The largest colored suburb of the Cape stretches for as far as the eye can see between two highways, the sea, and the mountains. It is a succession of poor neighborhoods where the dimensions of the houses will sometimes reflect the social success of those who occupy (and in many cases own) them. Everybody complains, and not without cause: there are not enough schools or teachers, public transportation is nonexistent, the "taxi war" is raging, and the rapidly growing sense of insecurity gives Cape-town the unhappy privilege of having one of the highest crime rates in the world.

The situation in Mitchells Plain, however, is better than in the black ghettos. These ghettos are like so many warts on the Cape Peninsula, which the South Africans nonetheless consider to be a jewel. The contrasts between the skyscrapers of the central city, the old colonial-style buildings, the port that has been converted into a tourist trap, the wonderful vineyards, and the filthy shantytowns where squalor and poverty reign are indeed striking.

Mitchells Plain is in fact situated between two worlds. It is a township for those who are "neither white nor black," as Marike De Klerk, the president's wife, once succinctly described them, or for those who owe their

existence "to the European colonists who violated our grandmothers," as Winnie Mandela, wife of the head of the ANC, once explained.

Almost 85 percent of the *colored*—as people of mixed race are officially designated in South Africa—reside in Cape Province.

The historical bases for this decision by the champions of apartheid are unclear, because the South Africans of mixed race are not a clearly defined ethnic group. Most of them had as their ancestors the first whites who arrived in the region and either the *Kl. oikhoin*s (Hottentots) or the *Sans* (Bushmen). Others are the descendants of Malay slaves who were landed on the peninsula 300 years ago by the Dutch East Indies Company.

The racist laws of apartheid—now repealed—classified the former as *Griquas* and the latter as *Cape Malays*. Other subgroups of the colored population were formed from persons whose ancestors came from Europe, Africa, Mauritius, Madagascar, or even St. Helena. "The colored became an identifiable group when they adopted, as their language, a creolized Dutch that came to be called Afrikaans and to which the Boers rapidly laid claim as a distinctive symbol," is the explanation given by Ampie Coetsee and Freddie Hendriks, the chairmen of the Afrikaans and Sociology departments at Western Cape University, respectively.

Ninety percent of the Afrikaans-speaking colored regard the language as belonging to them rather than to the white oppressor. A total of 1,200 students are enrolled this year in Coetsee's Afrikaans department, the largest in South Africa. "Afrikaans will eventually become a regional language in this country," Coetsee predicts, "while English—which is not the native tongue of any community—will become the language of communication." Ninety percent of the colored are Christian and belong to the same churches as the whites, although they do not attend the same houses of worship. Of the 7 percent of the colored who are Muslims, most are descendants of the Malays who according to the imam Hassan Solomon, one of the directors of the Muslim Legal Council, "have perpetuated their traditions and maintained the Islamic faith despite their slavery and isolation."

"We are a minority within a minority," Hassan Solomon goes on to say, "but we were very active in the period between 1983 and 1986, when it was a question of opposing the tricameral system instituted by the Botha regime. The colored parliament created at that time," he explains, "is not representative of our community." The Muslim colored are "more progressive" and "in general are quite close to the liberation movements," declares Professor Hendriks, who on the other hand believes that the rest of the colored community is "very conservative" and "close to the National Party" (NP) of President De Klerk.

Nearly 2 Million Voters

The NP and the ANC—the two heavyweights on the political scene—are vying with each other in respect to strategies designed to attract the 1.8 million voters of the colored community, which numbers 3.2 million in all.

The stake is large. A public opinion survey published in 1990 by *RAPPORT*, an Afrikaans-language weekly, disclosed that 25 percent of the colored would choose to support the NP while 29 percent would support the ANC. This trend is confirmed by Willy Hoffmeyer, one of the ANC leaders in Cape Town. "The colored are divided," he says, "and the margin in favor of the one camp or the other will not be more than 10 percent. It is a key community in terms of its voting strength," he adds, "and deserves our full attention."

The president of the ANC had to use all his influence to get his general staff to acknowledge the necessity of having representation in Cape Town that takes into account the structure of the population. The veteran leader overcame the reticences, and today the pastor Allan Boesak, a leading figure of the United Democratic Front (UDF) in the 1980's, presides over the destinies of the ANC in the western part of the province.

Boesak is a valuable trump card. He is a colored person, a Protestant minister, and very popular all the way to the northern part of Namaqualand, a region bordering on Namibia. This former president of the Protestant World Council of Churches is a popular orator who does not hesitate to quote the Bible to justify the policies of the ANC, just as the white pastors used it to explain the validity of apartheid. Motivated by strong political ambitions, Boesak has chosen to tone down the harsh criticism he made of the ANC a year ago and also the reservations he voiced with respect to the alliance with the South African Communist Party (SACP), which is a veritable bogeyman for all religious South Africans.

The appointment of Boesak is a master political stroke. Everything has its flip side, however. The detractors of the pastor had no difficulty pointing out the contradictions of the ANC—a "nonracial" movement that nevertheless staked its hopes on Boesak because the latter is colored and therefore likely to attract the voters of the colored community.

This tactic had already been used by the NP, which became "multiracial" in a desire to recruit members from among the supporters of the Labor Party [LP] in the Colored Chamber of Parliament. By the end of the parliamentary session of 1991, 35 colored deputies (out of 85) had crossed the Rubicon and joined the NP.

"De Klerk Knows How To Talk to the Colored"

At the beginning of the 1992 session, an additional defection—combined with the subtle strategy of forming alliances with the independent deputies—was sufficient to overthrow the president of the Colored Chamber, LP

leader Pastor Hendrikse. De Klerk then appointed NP deputy Jac Rabie to replace Hendrikse in that post.

By a curious irony of history, the colored—who suffered under apartheid along with the Indians and the blacks—are jumping into the lap of the NP, the advocate of separate development. "It is true," Rabie explains, "that in the past we were opposed to the Nats' (a nickname given to NP members), but they are now carrying out the policy that we have always advocated." The 36 deputies—the "deserters"—were not persuasive, however. At the time of the 1989 legislative elections, only 17 percent of the colored bothered to vote for members of the Chamber, who were regarded in advance as "lackeys of apartheid."

Most colored South Africans have not forgotten that the NP—which has been power since 1948—removed their names from the municipal electoral lists, moved them by force from their traditional neighborhoods (such as District Six in Cape Town), and resettled them in *townships* where they had not chosen to live. What is leading them toward the president's party is rather the result of a natural inclination toward the whites, for whom they feel a considerable affinity.

On the other hand, the colored are afraid of the blacks and of the violence that is ravaging the ghettos. They also fear a lowering of their living standards, inasmuch as their living conditions are better than those of the blacks. "Here," laments Shahida, a resident of Mitchells Plain, "most people believe it is better to live under white rule than to be ruled by blacks."

As a colored person, a Muslim, a feminist, and a member of the ANC, Shahida is raising her three children—the oldest of whom is named Yasser and the youngest Fidel—by herself. "De Klerk knows how to talk to the colored, and he charms them," she acknowledges, and immediately expresses disappointment that the ANC is so "bureaucratic, because that prevents us from responding to the demands of a population that is confronted with serious material problems."

Rabie believes that the swing toward the NP would translate into "a massive 70 percent vote" for De Klerk by the colored community. "As between the white devil who subjected them but whom they know, and the black devil whom they fear, it is not certain that at the crucial moment they would not choose the former," Professor Hendriks comments with an air of fatalism.

South African Press Review for 26 Mar
MB2603115392

[Editorial Report]

THE CITIZEN

End To Hangings Moratorium Welcome—"Since on several occasions we have deplored the fact that nobody has been hanged for two years, we welcome the end of the moratorium on hangings," declares the page 6 editorial on Johannesburg THE CITIZEN in English on 24

March. The paper points out that the "safeguards against an innocent man being executed are extensive." "We should not be lily-livered about hangings. The death penalty is imposed in the United States, in the Middle East, in African countries, including the largest, Nigeria, and elsewhere. We need it here, too."

Settling Old Scores, Battle for Local Power Behind Violence—Johannesburg THE CITIZEN in English on 25 March in its page 6 editorial wonders whether "we are ever going to see an end to the violence in the townships." "In some instances, there is clearly a battle for power at a local level. In other instances, particularly in Natal, it appears also to be a settling of old scores, tribal feuding and the machinations of warlords. Whatever the reason, it is shameful."

THE STAR

Editorial on Suspicion of State's Private Armies—Johannesburg THE STAR in English on 26 March in a page 20 editorial says "the government is clearly pushing to persuade the ANC to abandon rather than merely suspend its armed struggle and to dissolve its underground army, Umkhonto we Sizwe [Spear of the Nation—MK]." ANC Information Secretary Pallo Jordan has insisted, "quite rightly," that MK's future cannot be considered in isolation. "Apart from the private armies of rival political organisations, he has referred specifically to the SAP [South African Police]

and the SADF [South African Defense Force]. As long as the suspicion remains that these are the instruments of a 'minority regime', as long as ANC members feel they are not adequately protected from the terrifying violence in the townships, the ANC will understandably be loath to sacrifice its army." One way of "neutralising" that suspicion is to negotiate an agreement making the security forces accountable in practice to the Convention for a Democratic South Africa, Codesa. "Another is to end the anomaly of conscripting only whites into the SADF, either by making it a volunteer army or by balloting conscripts from all races."

BUSINESS DAY

ANC Urged To Drop Sanctions Policy—Johannesburg BUSINESS DAY in English on 26 March in a page 8 editorial comments on ANC Deputy President Walter Sisulu's call for the ANC to drop its sanctions policy, saying "one suspects Sisulu will not be popular for his public recognition of this new political reality." But "even if sanctions were still effective, the ANC would have no moral justification for using them at this stage of political transition. They were designed to assist in eliminating apartheid, and that job is done. All that is in dispute about an interim government is its detail—the principle is already accepted all round. The ANC has no right to attempt to use sanctions in support of its own narrow point of view in the detail of negotiations."

Angola

Assembly Approves Changes for Party Registration

MB2603080792 Luanda Radio Nacional Network
in Portuguese 1900 GMT 25 Mar 92

[Excerpt] The Supreme Court could soon recognize parties that have already collected 1,500 signatures, including 100 from each of 10 provinces in the country.

The People's Assembly Standing Commission met in Luanda today under the chairmanship of Angolan President Jose Eduardo dos Santos, and it approved the law altering the Law on Political Parties. [passage omitted]

Government Withdraws Troops From Uige Province

MB2603093492 (Clandestine) Voice of Resistance
of the Black Cockerel in Portuguese to Southern and
Central Africa 0500 GMT 26 Mar 92

[Excerpt] The anachronistic Luanda regime in Uige Province has been withdrawing its troops from assembly points without the knowledge of the Joint Political and Military Commission, thus creating an atmosphere of unrest and insecurity among civilians in flagrant violation of the Bicesse peace accords. [passage omitted]

UNITA Communique Notes Expulsion of 'Deserters'

MB2603073192 (Clandestine) Voice of Resistance
of the Black Cockerel in Portuguese to Southern and
Central Africa 0500 GMT 26 Mar 92

[Communique issued by Political Commission of the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola, UNITA, in Jamba on 25 March—read by announcer]

[Text] Having held an ordinary working session to examine the country's political situation, the Political Commission of the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola, UNITA, would like to announce the following:

1. UNITA would like to reaffirm its total commitment to the peace process and the holding of free and fair elections in September 1992, regardless of the difficulties encountered.

2. It is evident that the flight of Miguel N'zau Puna and Tony Fernandes is directly linked to the 8 March plan aimed at physically eliminating Dr. Jonas Malheiro Savimbi, as is attested by Western secret services.

A. N'zau Puna fled Angola with a diplomatic passport issued by the People's Republic of Angola aboard the presidential aircraft of Jose Eduardo dos Santos.

B. When he left for London, Tony Fernandes was escorted to the aircraft by Fernando da Piedade Dias dos Santos Nando, deputy interior minister of the People's Republic of Angola, after the two held a secret meeting at Luanda Airport.

3. It is not by mere chance that Tony da Costa Fernandes demanded \$15 million from UNITA in form of blackmail, as is evidenced in the following recording which is at the disposal of any observer who would like to prove its authenticity.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified speaker] [words indistinct] In the meantime, I would just like to confirm. You said you wanted how much?

[Fernandes] [words indistinct] during the third week of May and in September [words indistinct].

[Speaker] So, you are saying that you want \$5 million now and the other \$5 million when?

[Fernandes] During the third week of May and the last installment 22 days before elections.

[Speaker] Is that all?

[Fernandes] Yes, that is all.

[Speaker] This issue of money, I do not have money.

[Fernandes] [passage indistinct] should have a reply because I have to [words indistinct].

[Speaker] When do you want this reply?

[Fernandes] Tomorrow, the latest [words indistinct].

[Speaker] What guarantee do you give that (?you will not talk)?

[Fernandes] [sentence indistinct].

[Speaker] What guarantee do you give that [words indistinct].

[Fernandes] I was saying that I want about three installments. [sentence indistinct].

[Speaker] That is your guarantee?

[Fernandes] That is right. [words indistinct] to lose.

[Speaker] [words indistinct] (? stand to lose)

[Fernandes] [words indistinct] three installments. [words indistinct] the other two will be [words indistinct].

[Speaker] What other two?

[Fernandes] The installments of May and September.

[Speaker] You say May and September, then only one installment [words indistinct] \$5 million [words indistinct]. [end recording]

4. Through his statement on 24 March 1992, Miguel N'zau Puna clearly revealed his separatist convictions regarding Cabinda.

5. By a decision of the UNITA Political Commission two-third majority, Miguel N'zau Puna and Tony da Costa Fernandes, two former comrades in arms who are today deserters in the service of the Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola, have been expelled from the party. They should henceforth cease to speak on behalf of our glorious party, UNITA.

A. Ambassador Abel Epalanga Chivukuvuku has been appointed UNITA's foreign minister.

B. Ambasadador Honorio van Dunem de Andrade has been appointed UNITA's interior minister.

[Issued] Jamba, 25 March 1992

[Signed] UNITA Political Commission

* Savimbi's Refusal To Meet Nogueira Noted

92AF0507E Lisbon O JORNAL in Portuguese
28 Feb 92 p 22

[Article by Lurdes Feio]

[Text] Following the unpleasantness involving Prime Minister Cavaco Silva last September, history repeated itself once again this week, this time involving Defense Minister Fernando Nogueira. At the last minute, Jonas Savimbi canceled the meeting he had scheduled with the Portuguese defense minister in Luanda, on the pretext of the illness of a brother. In the opinion of diplomatic circles, "these are just excuses...." In Lisbon, the last hope appears to be President Mario Soares's coming trip to Angola.

The meeting between Savimbi and Nogueira had been arranged by the Portuguese Ministry of Foreign Affairs days before the departure of the defense minister. Everything appeared to have been confirmed: the UNITA [National Union for the Total Independence of Angola] leader had accepted the proposal, although he had not yet scheduled the exact day and hour for the meeting.

Previously—last September—when Cavaco Silva went to Angola, Savimbi manifested an interest in a meeting, which however never took place. At the time, the UNITA leader gave the excuse that it was impossible for him to leave Jamba to meet face to face in Luanda with Cavaco Silva.

All That Remained Was To Decide on the Hour

O JORNAL has learned that the Portuguese MNE [Ministry of Foreign Affairs] made every effort to ensure that this time a meeting between Savimbi and Fernando Nogueira would take place. In addition to the political importance of such a meeting, there was also the desirability of discussing specific questions concerning the training of the unified Angolan Army.

Savimbi's refusal became known only after Nogueira's arrival in Luanda, just as happened during Cavaco's visit. Portuguese sources would say only: "It was

expected. UNITA continues to be prejudiced against the Portuguese—especially the military—and will always find pretexts to avoid frontal dialogue."

The President's "Revenge"

If Savimbi's unavailability for a meeting with Nogueira before the end of the prime minister's visit—he returns today (Friday) to Lisbon—is confirmed, all the Portuguese expectations will be entrusted to the good offices of the president of the Republic [PR], whose official visit to Angola is scheduled for March.

Government sources have assured O JORNAL that "total harmony" exists between Cavaco Silva and Mario Soares concerning the presidential visit to Luanda. "It goes without saying that the government will give its complete support to this trip by the president," they emphasize.

Because the good relations existing between Mario Soares and the UNITA leader have long been known, it would be unthinkable for the PR to visit Angola without meeting personally with Savimbi. This personal and political advantage would appear to be Mario Soares's ultimate "revenge," in view of all the complaints that sources in Belem Palace [Office of the President] have voiced over the government's refusal to share with the president the laurels for the Angolan peace accord that was signed in Portugal approximately one year ago.

* Huambo: More Portuguese Assistance Requested

92AF0507D Lisbon DIARIO DE NOTICIAS
in Portuguese 26 Feb 92 p 5

[Text] The Huambo Provincial Government and the High Command of the Angolan Armed Forces yesterday asked Portuguese Minister of Defense Fernando Nogueira for more assistance in reviving the nation's war-devastated economy. Huambo Governor Graciano Mande told Nogueira that the success of the Angolan peace process "is attributable not only to the Angolan people but also to the Portuguese authorities, by virtue of their outstanding mediation efforts." Mande said his country has been partially destroyed by the war and requires cooperative action. Given the "historical reality" of Angola, he added, "Portugal will be in the forefront" of his country's economic revival.

A "fair number" of Portuguese businessmen have showed up recently in the central province to express an interest in participating in development projects, Mande said.

Previously, upon Nogueira's arrival, Mande had given the keys to the city of Huambo (formerly Nova Lisboa) to this first minister of defense to visit the city for the purpose of meeting with Angolan military authorities and Portuguese advisers of the Officer Training School, which is located on premises formerly occupied by a similar Portuguese institution before Angola's independence.

In his response to the request for greater Portuguese participation in the process of Angola's revival,

Fernando Nogueira commented that the relations of friendship between Portugal and Angola are of longer duration than the existence of the United States, which—in its capacity as the one remaining superpower—is today fashioning a new “unipolar world.”

The five centuries of Luso-Angolan relations, Fernando Nogueira said, are “a precious asset.” He said that if this preferential relationship is extended to include the Portuguese-speaking nations of the world, it will be able to “project itself and form a cohesive unity—a strategic convergence—that will complement other strategic convergences” deriving from the choices that these nations make. On the one hand, he says, Portuguese strategic interests “are not limited” to participation in the European Community. “And if this convergence of interests does materialize,” he declared, “as is quite possible, we shall all profit immensely thereby.”

* Situation in Lunda-Sul Termed ‘Desperate’

92AF0507A Luanda JORNAL DE ANGOLA
in Portuguese 5 Feb 92 p 2

[Article by Diogo Paixao; first two paragraphs are JORNAL DE ANGOLA introduction]

[Text] “War” and “economy” are two words whose correlation goes beyond any simplifying formula. The war has debilitated the nation and placed obstacles in the way of any economic development program.

Despite the presence today of a new reality—the conquest of peace—the war has had a tangible impact that will continue to be felt for a long time.

Lunda-Sul Province, 1,000 km from Luanda in the eastern part of the country, is today the symbol of desperation. The war did not impact the province as directly as it did many other areas of Angola, but its indirect influence—combined with the incompetence of successive local governments—is turning the province into something akin to an abandoned region. Devoid of any significance to the industrial sector of the nation, it is almost entirely dependent on the coastal provinces.

Its capital Saurimo, with a population of approximately 166,550, today presents the image of a forgotten land—an image of desolation pure and simple. Poverty is in the city’s streets, and the evils that the system cultivated are turning the city into a complex laboratory of black marketeering.

Lunda-Sul Province has a 250-km border with the Republic of Zaire—a fact that gives rise to a major migratory movement with unpleasant consequences.

In Saurimo, the black market rules. More than 70 percent of the city’s residents make their living in it. The major black marketeers obtain their goods in the principal markets of Angola and even in neighboring countries such as Namibia and Zaire. They make these goods

available to the small-scale operators, who offer them for sale in the city’s markets at outrageous prices.

“Porto Seco” is the meeting place for the major and minor black marketeers. It is an abandoned service station where almost all the trucks coming from Luanda, Malanje, Dundo, and Namibia park with their cargos of every type of merchandise from beer to high-ticket articles. It resembles the famous “Cazenga Park” here in Luanda.

Lunda-Sul is virtually isolated from the rest of Angola. Highway connections are very poor as a result of the war, which completely tore up the region. To speak of telephones, telex, fax, or any other system of communication is—to say the least—an insult to the local residents. There is no place to get a cold drink anywhere in Saurimo, which is devoid of everything that would entitle it to be called a city. These reasons are more than sufficient to cause a visitor to feel “dislocated.”

Despite the fact that it borders on the diamond-rich province of Lunda-Norte, Saurimo has not had the benefit of any really substantial investments. It does not even have a branch of the University. Medical care is unreliable. There is no running water, and electric power is distributed only from 1730 to midnight. This is a subject for another report, however.

The city’s residents are cordial and hospitable. A visitor cannot go anywhere without someone insisting on making a “xima”—the popular local “funge” [meaning unknown]—which is generally served with game, of which there is a surplus locally. The “xima” is so hard, however, that you cannot break it even by hurling it against the wall. These local customs!

Prospecting Reaches the Heights of Absurdity

In Saurimo, conversations among friends usually center around business deals and prospecting. In an attempt to get ahead in life, many go to Lunda-Norte in search of “white gold” regardless of the sacrifices they must make and the risks involved, because as they say, “nothing ventured, nothing gained”—a popular adage that the people of Lunda know how to put into practice.

Others avoid traveling great distances and “even dig at home.” They use clothing appropriate for that kind of work, and their principal tool is the hoe. The areas attracting the most prospectors are Sassuaha, 28 km from Saurimo, and Carteira, 33 km distant.

“Well, friend, did you get anything today?” And the reply comes quickly: either yes or no. Some will merely nod their head affirmatively or negatively, because “you have good days and you have bad days,” as they always say.

Luck is a factor that seemingly must be taken into account in the life of these prospectors. Whereas a few manage to get "something" in less than 24 hours, others return with empty hands even after a week spent in "chewing up" the ground.

There was never so much talk about prospecting in Lunda-Sul as there is today. It is a phenomenon that has reached the pinnacle of absurdity. Almost everyone is "playing the game," from the big fish to the small fry. "It is the residents themselves who confess what they are doing. Those who don't dig at least buy and resell," people say unabashedly and without the fear they used to display in discussing the subject. For after all, how can you stop the prospecting?

Incredible as it may seem, the prospector does not live an ordered life. It is "easy come, easy go." Some speak of large sums of dollars, which they usually lose in drinking bouts, get-togethers with friends, banquets, and "quajandas" [meaning unknown].

For many the important thing is to acquire a video recorder, a powerful stereo, and extravagant clothing. Nothing else matters. Others go even farther and contrive to obtain a BMW—the "car of the hour" in the two Lundas—in which they cruise the city, always with a numerous escort.

Generally speaking, it is the middlemen who profit from the prospectors' labors. They "extort the little stones" from the prospectors and resell them to the men who come from Luanda. The gemstones travel in trucks and even in planes and will end up on the "old continent" for the "necessary treatment." It is this illegal trafficking that lines the pockets of some while others are left "sucking their thumbs."

Business Is What Matters; the Rest Can Wait

The sale of dried fish on the local market has become one of the principal businesses in Lunda-Sul, with Luanda "directing the operations" that supply it. Everything begins here in Luanda. The women "ship" the fish in large trucks, paying a fee of 60,000 kwanzas or more per trip, depending on the cargo. The merchandise is usually accompanied by close relatives, and the women proprietors follow by plane.

The difficulties with getting the "O.K." do not arise with the women, because the system is infallible. For each carton shipped they pay 80,000 new kwanzas, or \$100. The system also works in the opposite direction, from Saurimo to Luanda. The problems arise when dishonest employees of TAAG [Angolan Airlines] "meddle in the affair."

This is the explanation for so much confusion in connection with the check-ins for flights to and from Saurimo. It is "well-organized disorganization" that benefits only those who "are involved" in the affair. Others find it difficult to travel on schedule if they "do not grease someone's palms."

In Saurimo the majority of the black marketeers set up shop in the Agostinho Neto district of the city. They rent small buildings attached to residences and live there in groups of three or four persons until they "have transacted their business." The rental arrangements vary from one property owner to another; some ask 1,000 new kwanzas per person, and some demand more.

Stereos, sheets of corrugated metal, and bicycles are other major items that Luandans take to Saurimo. A bicycle can be sold there for around 150,000 new kwanzas, while a sheet of corrugated metal sells for 10,000.

Some people have even left their jobs in order to devote themselves exclusively to this type of business. It was Paulino Damiao, our photographer, who told us this. He went to meet with one of his nephews (who until a very short time ago worked for TAAG) in the municipal market in Saurimo. The nephew was selling a variety of products that included watches and combination radio-cassette decks. When his inventory runs out, he has no trouble returning to Luanda to obtain a "new consignment." "This is a better life for me than working for the government," he confesses. And the army of unemployed is growing in Angola—unfortunately!

The City's Night Life

The city's night life is virtually nonexistent, due not only to energy-related problems (which we have already mentioned) but also to certain conditions peculiar to the province. Two night clubs and a recreation center provide from time to time a bit of merriment to the city's residents until shortly before midnight, because after that there is no electric power. On weekends the atmosphere does not change significantly; it is virtually the same as on weekdays.

Young people go to these places, however, to "kill time" to the sound of a good band. Some prefer to "guzzle some 'bitolas'" [meaning unknown] at the Muxi Restaurant (reputedly the best in the city) at the parallel-market price: 1,500 new kwanzas.

The "Galito" is a hotel in name only. It is the only one in the city, and operates on "charcoal, because of the present circumstances."

The "pinchos" fever [febre dos pinchos] also attacks Saurimo, and although it is not as widespread there as in Luanda, it is sufficient to "cause distress." It almost disappears during the day, and "goes up" at night.

One particularity is readily apparent in Saurimo: the nights are relatively quiet. There is no gunfire, such as occurs in Luanda—to the despair of the local residents.

Grass and Erosion Are Blocking Access to the City

The grass and the erosion caused by the constant downpours are blocking access to the city. At some points the grass has reached a height of more than one meter, while the fissures opened up by the action of the rains sometimes reach depths of from 15 to 20 meters.

This phenomenon is progressing relentlessly. There is no one to halt it. Saurimo City Manager Fernando Xili himself has said that the province does not have the technical means either to cut the grass or to stop the erosion. If this situation continues, it will not be long before a part of the city will disappear.

At a point less than three km from the city—in the lowlands above the Muangueji River—the erosion threatens to cut the highway that runs between Saurimo and Lucapa in Lunda-Norte. The ground is caving in everywhere, and the road has already become so narrow that on some stretches passing is no longer possible. And all this is taking place before everyone's very eyes. It is unbelievable!

*** Bie Government Outlines Agricultural Plan**

92AF0507B Luanda JORNAL DE ANGOLA
in Portuguese 5 Feb 92 p 2

[Article by Armando Estrela and Francisco Viegas]

[Text] Kuito—The Bie Provincial Government is involved in activities designed to encourage agricultural production, with the aim of making foodstuffs available to the peoples of the region in the face of the vicissitudes of the regular system of food distribution.

The cumulative precipitation (approximately 682 mm) since the beginning of the first planting period (October) would appear to justify some optimism with respect to the corn harvest of next April and May. Some pluviometric variations forecast for December 1991 and January 1992, however, were cited as determining factors in forecasting the indices of production of the various cereal grains.

It should be noted that the rains have further impoverished some of the soils in the province.

According to the planning department of the Bie office of the Ministry of Agriculture, approximately 15,000 hectares of land were mobilized—a figure calculated on the basis of an average production of 2,500 tons per hectare needed to supply the requirements of the province.

Meanwhile, as a result of the seminar on "Agricultural Meteorology for Food Security"—which was held from 17 to 20 December of last year in Kuito by the National Rapid Alert Unit of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (Minader)—Bie's network of agrometeorological observers has taken steps to minimize the unfavorable consequences of the rains.

On the other hand, the principal obstacle to any increase in the cultivated area—reflected in the fact that approximately 400 tons of hydric corn and 200 tons of regional corn remain to be planted—is the shortage of earthmoving machinery and the lack of security in the countryside.

The introduction of hundreds of head of oxen for use as draft animals—which are already in the possession of the farmers and rural population in seven of Bie's nine

municipalities—does constitute a palliative for agricultural activity but also sets the stage for possible crop losses resulting from the lack of pesticides to combat the corn borer.

Meanwhile, the rice in Bie's possession—a total of 1,300 tons of seed rice for distribution in the municipalities of Camacupa, Nhareia, and Chitembo—does not promise yields in the initial period because of the insufficient production resulting from the late arrival of the product. Crop forecasts, however, provide a strong incentive for the near future under a system of semi-irrigation that will be practicable only for farmers who have motor pumps.

The supply of foodstuffs to the people of Bie will therefore continue to be dependent on the available financial resources, regardless of the performance of the national currency in the Angolan market and despite the successive devaluations to which the currency has been subjected as part of the government's package of economic measures.

In Kuito and Catabola, a number of abandoned plantations are being restored—together with sufficient equipment—under the provincial government's program of regional imports that has been developed by the Ministry of Agriculture.

To this end, 10,000 demobilized soldiers are expected to be settled in three large agricultural regions of the province, according to the estimates of the agricultural experts. Plans also call for training these demobilized soldiers over a five-year period to be independent farmers.

An equal number of dislocated citizens have since last year been receiving agricultural aid from Unicef. For the current growing season, these populations will receive 50 tons of seed corn; 95 tons of seed beans in the municipalities of Andulo, Chinguar, and Nhareia; and a number of farm implements in Kuito and Catabola.

Despite this support, these groups need more assistance so that they can be effectively reintegrated into their respective communities. A part of the support that is lacking, however, is contingent to a very great extent on the activities in connection with rural reorganization, which is to be accomplished by restructuring the government organs that are in charge of agriculture.

Reforestation

The first steps to accomplish the task of reforestation were taken during the period when the drought hindered agricultural production—and specifically during the crop years of 1987/1988 and 1989—through the medium of projects developed by the JMPLA [Youth of the Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola] that called for the initial planting of 5,000 eucalyptus trees.

Various government organs and people's groups were motivated by the program, and it was subsequently "heeded" by the provincial government, which ordered an increase in the reforestation activity carried out by the Bie Provincial office of the Ministry of Agriculture.

More than 50,000 nursery plants were planted in the outskirts of the municipality of Kuito. Because of the war conditions, the results of the operation were not satisfactory in the other eight municipalities.

In view of the marked failure of the program, the provincial reforestation project will enlist the efforts of some Namibian entrepreneurs who are interested in investing in Bie Province with a view to exploiting timber for the furniture industry, among other fields of activity.

Lesotho

Minister Announces Delay of General Elections

MB2503132392 Johannesburg Radio RSA in English
1100 GMT 25 Mar 92

[Text] The Constitutional Affairs Minister of Lesotho, Mr. Kelebone Maope, has announced in Maseru that Lesotho's first general elections in 22 years, which were due to have taken place in June, will be delayed. He told a news conference that the elections would still be held later this year, but that the June date could not be met because of delays in registering voters and drafting the necessary laws.

Political Parties 'Free To Organize Rallies'

MB2603132992 Johannesburg Radio RSA in English
1100 GMT 26 Mar 92

[Text] Lesotho's Law, Constitutional and Parliamentary Affairs Minister, Mr. Kelebone Maope, says all political parties in Lesotho will be free to organize rallies to prepare for the coming general election. Mr. Maope told a news conference in Maseru that the Internal Security Act of 1984, which required all people to have written permission from the police to hold meetings would be amended. After that people wanting to hold public meetings would only have to inform the police and the chiefs.

Mauritius

Consular Level Ties Planned With South Africa

MB2303160292 Johannesburg South African
Broadcasting Corporation Network in English
1500 GMT 23 Mar 92

[Text] It's been announced in Port Louis that Mauritius and South Africa are to establish diplomatic relations at consular level. The announcement by the Mauritian Government contained no indication of the date for the move. It was also announced that the foreign minister of Mauritius, Mr. Paul Berenger, was to visit South Africa in the near future.

Mozambique

CPC Delegation Arrives in Maputo 23 Mar

MB2403073592 Maputo Radio Mozambique Network
in Portuguese 1900 GMT 23 Mar 92

[Text] A CPC delegation headed by CPC Central Committee [alternate] member Li Zhenqian has been in Maputo since this afternoon for talks with the Mozambique Liberation Front, Frelimo, Party. Li Zhenqian told our correspondent that his visit is aimed at exchanging information and experiences.

The visiting delegation was welcomed by Alberto Sitole, secretary for foreign affairs of the Frelimo Party Central Committee.

Meets Frelimo Party Delegation

MB2503192092 Maputo Radio Mozambique Network
in Portuguese 1730 GMT 25 Mar 92

[Text] Mozambique Liberation Front, Frelimo Party, and CPC delegations met in Maputo today to exchange viewpoints on the political situation in Mozambique and in the PRC, in Africa, and in the world at large. The two teams also discussed bilateral relations on the basis of an existing cooperation accord.

The Mozambican team to the meeting was led by Alberto Sithole, Frelimo Party Central Committee secretary for foreign affairs. Li Zhenqian, CPC Central Committee [alternate] member, led the PRC delegation.

Attorney General Declares 'War' on Corruption

MB2403195692 Maputo Radio Maputo in English
1800 GMT 24 Mar 92

[Text] Mozambique's Attorney General Eduardo Mulembwe today told the country's parliament, the Assembly of the Republic, that his office has declared war against corruption. This battle will be [word indistinct], and it will be continued no matter where it leads. Mr. Mulembwe was for the first time giving a report on the activities of his office to the Assembly. He listed instances of corruption and other abuses committed by soldiers and policemen, including the sale of weapons to criminals, illegal detentions, extortion of money to release young men from their military service, and the use of military aircraft to carry personal goods, livestock, or even bricks and sand. He noted that party and state leaders now owned farms, or had set up commercial or industrial companies. In some cases, the capital required for such ventures was inconsistent with what could have been earned from their income.

Mr. Mulembwe queried whether the law on the duties and rights of state officials was being implemented.

Under this law, all top officials are supposed to declare a list of their assets, and update it every year.

The government and the assembly should analyze corruption seriously, and see what measures can be taken to restore the citizens' confidence in the leadership. He said that the ready availability of firearms was a factor in the country's rocketing crime rate [word indistinct]. He noted that guns could even be (?purchased) at an informal market known as Dumbanengue.

Mr. Mulembwe called for measures to restore trust between the police and community, and to eliminate corruption from the police forces.

Ministers Examine Land Allocation Irregularities

MB2503153292 Maputo Radio Mozambique Network in Portuguese 0500 GMT 25 Mar 92

[Text] The Council of Ministers has concluded that charges by the Maputo General Union of Agricultural and Livestock Cooperatives about land allocation irregularities on the outskirts of Maputo city are true. This conclusion was reached following the examination of work carried out by a commission of inquiry established to find the truth. A government communique received at our news desk says the commission noted that the irregularities resulted from the inefficient operation of the relevant services and weak management in the Land Registration Office of the Construction and Urbanization Directorate.

Accordingly, the Council of Ministers has instructed the ministers of state administration and finance to quickly probe this directorate in order to identify the people responsible for these irregularities and improve its management. The Council of Ministers also determined that the Ministries of Agriculture and State Administration should carry out a national meeting of provincial governors and their respective cadres to examine the problem of land allocation.

Regarding the results of an inquiry into the Administration of State-Owned Buildings Office, Apie, in Maputo city, the Council of Ministers concluded that this office is facing serious management, organizational, and administrative problems. On the basis of the results of a commission of inquiry established to investigate many reports of irregularities in Apie, the Council of Ministers decided to begin disciplinary measures against Apie Director Taudino Migano and other denounced officials. It also decided to urgently assess Apie's management in Maputo city.

Minister Criticizes Renamo's Behavior at Talks

MB2503151592 Maputo Radio Mozambique Network in Portuguese 1400 GMT 25 Mar 92

[Text] Addressing the Assembly of the Republic today, Deputy Armando Guebuza, who is also transport and communications minister, as well as head of the Mozambican team to the Rome peace talks, said that the talks

have been marred by the Mozambique National Resistance, Renamo's, excessive distrust of the Mozambican Government.

Deputy Armando Guebuza explained that Renamo always resorts to the distrust ploy when it runs out of excuses to stray from the negotiation process. He also said that Renamo has tried to add elements foreign to the agenda of the negotiations with the aim of slowing them down, or even paralyzing them whenever possible. To that end, Renamo alleges that it lacks confidence in the government's seriousness, and that it is afraid that its men will be arrested once they are back in the country. As an example, Deputy Armando Guebuza said that the Renamo team had abandoned the negotiating table for four days to visit London, and deal with issues that had nothing to do with the negotiation process.

Addressing the Fourth Session of the Assembly of the Republic, Transportation and Communications Minister Armando Guebuza noted that a circumstantial factor affecting the peace talks is the difference between the long time Renamo needs in order to achieve its inadmissible political and military goals, and national as well as international pressure for urgent and immediate peace.

The head of the Mozambican Government's team to the Rome peace talks affirmed that Renamo keeps making statements in favor of peace because it greatly needs to improve its image at home and abroad. In practice, though, its behavior contradicts those statements.

Also today, the deputies of the Assembly of the Republic approved the draft resolution ratifying the treaty formalizing the creation of the African Economic Community.

*** Niassa Commander: Military Situation Improves**

92AF0517B Maputo NOTICIAS in Portuguese 3 Feb 92 p 3

[Interview with Niassa Military Commander Lieutenant-Colonel Horacio Vicente Manjane, by Carlos Coelho; place and date not given]

[Text] The military commander of Niassa Province, Lieutenant-Colonel Horacio Vicente Manjane, disclosed in an exclusive interview with our newspaper that last year Renamo [Mozambique National Resistance] did not manage to occupy even for a few hours any district headquarters or village. According to him, this is evidence that the situation in the region has improved significantly in recent times as a result of the military action of the Mozambican Armed Forces [FAM]. "I would say that the military situation in the province improved last year. Not many problems were encountered, despite the fact that there were some enemy raids in the districts of Nipepe, Maua, Majune, Mavago, and Metarica. We managed to reopen some roads that had been closed because of fighting," he said. A transcription of the interview follows.

[Coelho] What are these improvements attributed to?

[Manjane] As a result of the combat action of our troops, here in Niassa we have been able to encourage the people to work for the development of the province. Moreover, there were some regions that had previously been affected by fighting that had a relatively good production in the last harvest.

[Coelho] Commander, since you said that the military situation has improved substantially in the province and that this momentum is currently being maintained, what would you regard as the "hottest" period, so to speak.

[Manjane] It was in 1987, and even a little into 1988, since at that time the situation was even difficult here in Niassa. At that point, the enemy was trying to get closer and closer to the provincial capital and the district headquarters.

[Coelho] Which attack in the last year was closest to the provincial capital?

[Manjane] It was a small-scale attack that occurred about five km away, where a group of no more than five men killed the owner of a bar and raided the premises. And that was the only attack here in the surrounding area, as the others were all mounted in the districts.

[Coelho] Which region is currently most affected by Renamo's military action?

[Manjane] The southern part of the province, as you know, is where there are many displaced people, since because of the fighting the local people have had to constantly seek refuge and look for better places. But as I said, recently there have been improvements as a result of the action of our Armed Forces.

[Coelho] Have FAM's operations here in Niassa been basically defensive or offensive?

[Manjane] We have conducted large-scale operations, which is why the situation has improved as I said. Last year we attacked a Renamo base considered by them as their headquarters, where we achieved outstanding victories.

[Coelho] One last question: Has conscription also come to Niassa?

[Manjane] As everyone knows, we have had to comply with a Defense Ministry order for resisters, and we did this in December. But it did not cause as much of a furor here as it did in other provinces, since we have been working in coordination with other local institutions. As a matter of fact, just the opposite happened here in Niassa, and that is that young men were brought into our offices by their own parents or employers, without having to ask them, and this is happening even now that the conscription is over. At the present time, there are about 40 young men with us in that situation, and we are sure that the number is going to rise.

* Niassa Corn Awaits Buyers in Market

92AF0517A Maputo NOTICIAS in Portuguese
3 Feb 92 p 3

[Article by Carlos Coelho]

[Text] About 4,500 tons of corn with a value of over a million contos are in storage at Agricom [Agricultural Products Marketing Company] warehouses in Niassa waiting for buyers. This corn comes from the latest commercial crop of farm products, that reached a total of 8,557 tons out of the 8,905 tons originally projected, for a rate of compliance with the plan of about 96 percent.

Alberto Julio Nhaca, Agricom's provincial representative in Niassa, proceeded to outline the results of the campaign for marketing the surplus farm products in his province, that was initiated in July of last year and recently concluded. He said that out of the 16 districts, his company had not managed to get to Marrupa, Maua, and Mecula, so that they had not taken part in the campaign.

"The remaining districts were all covered by the campaign that began with some difficulties related to the supply of sacks, since there were not enough to meet demand. Sacks were distributed to the districts on the basis of the amount available, and not on the basis of need. The result of this was then that in some districts, such as Cuamba and Mecanheles, various products were stored in bulk," the Agricom officer said.

Nhaca explained, however, that after some time had passed and various steps were taken at the Tete office, the sack shortage situation was partly resolved, despite the high costs of shipment.

"The most disturbing problem of the harvest occurred during the most critical period, since it was at that time that financing ran out and as a result of that some products ended up in the hands of the peasants, since there was not enough money," Alberto Nhaca said.

However, our source indicated that the reason why all of the people's surplus crop had not been absorbed was that most of the local merchants regard Agricom as the only marketing outlet, and they are not yet aware that the market has been opened up.

Some Crops Surpass Targets

Although in general the marketing campaign in Niassa did not attain its goals, some crops exceeded the amounts targeted in the plan. This was the case with corn and rice, each of which went over the projected amount by 20 percent.

For corn, 5,500 tons were projected in the plan, and about 6,800 tons were marketed, while the goal for rice was set at 155 tons, and 186 tons were marketed.

However, the bean crop did not attain its goal of 2,500 tons, but only came in at 1,143. According to Alberto Nhaca, the

reason for this is the liberalization of the bean market and the high demand for this product at all the markets.

"Many merchants purchased large quantities of beans directly from the farmers and, without registering them, took them and sold them in Nampula, Beira, and Tete," he said.

As we have already indicated, the province sold a total of 8,557 tons of various products, as compared to 8,552 recorded for the same period last year. The fact that only 96 percent of the goal was attained can essentially be explained by the fact that beans were not sold through the legal marketing channels, according to our source. Moreover, the fact that bank financing could not be obtained at the proper time also contributed to the failure to achieve the targets.

No Market for Corn

Of the more than 6,000 tons of corn from the latest crop to be sold at market, 4,500 are still being held at warehouses, because there are no buyers.

"We are hoping that in the next few months we will manage to sell to people living in the city, since by then most of them will have used up their own individual production. But this will create other problems for us, since we need this corn to cover our bank debts, and as time goes by, interest payments mount," Alberto Nhaca said.

Agricom's provincial representative in Niassa also told us the following: "Some institutions, and particularly Defense, owe the company huge amounts of money, as a result of goods supplied on credit. Defense's debt with us alone would cover nearly 70 percent of the money we owe to banks," he said.

Fuel and Access Roads

Other factors referred to by the provincial official as having hampered the progress of agricultural marketing campaigns in general have to do with the shortage of fuel and the deteriorated condition of roads.

The condition of the roads does not facilitate marketing, and during the rainy season it is even worse, since trips that should take one or two hours take instead three to four days, if not weeks. Moreover, since the usual supplies of fuel are not available in the province, we managed to obtain some from Tete Province to market this crop, but then we reached a point where there was no more either here or in Tete.

Another adverse factor mentioned by Agricom's provincial representative was that they have normally had to rely on the military, since they do not have their own forces of protection, as is the case in some other provinces.

"We have to wait for military units, and because of this we have had instances of some products being burned by Renamo [Mozambique National Resistance] while we were waiting for a military escort to some districts, such as Madjune and Mavago," he said in conclusion.

* Drought Devastates Manica Crop Production

92AF0517D Maputo NOTICIAS in Portuguese
11 Feb 92 p 3

[Article by Orlando Muchanga]

[Text] Over 4,000 hectares of corn in Manica Province that had been worked this year by government and private cooperative farms are considered to be lost, because of the severe drought that has been gradually devastating this region in the central part of the country for the past two years. Also as a result of the drought, regarded as the worst disaster in the past 40 years, it is estimated that out of the family-held farms producing marketable crops, 27,000 families will be affected by it and are going to have to rely on emergency programs. In Manica Province, an average family is made up of 11 persons.

DOMINGO's envoy to the region learned that the corn crop that was burned by the intense sun is from the first planting of this crop year, done in October and November of last year, at the beginning of the rainy season. This corn was already in the flowering [emban-deiramento] stage, and so it had little resistance to protracted heat. Up to the middle of last month, in districts where it was still possible to work, such as the outskirts of the city of Chimoio, the districts of Gondola, Sussendenga, Tambara, Barue, Mandonguana, and the green zones of the city of Manica, the fields being worked were a vast green "sea" of corn. But now, the young plants are completely dried up.

As for the second crop planted, that is a smaller, heat-resistant variety of corn, people say that if it rains in the next few days, and especially in Manica district, it is still possible to have a crop. A few weeks ago, after the "Botsona" depression that destroyed some infrastructure in Chimoio was over, there was rain, but the rain that fell was not enough to save the plants in their current condition. It is important to point out that throughout Manica Province, and even among the so-called large farmers, irrigation systems are virtually unknown. "Everyone has tractors, but nobody has a motorized pump for irrigation. Besides corn, tobacco and cotton crops have also been burned," a local farmer lamented.

In the lowlands one can still find some corn and banana crops alive. As a direct result of the unusually low rainfall in recent years in that province, the majority of the rivers have dried up, and this has also led to a shortage of drinking water for consumption by the cities of Chimoio and Manica. Water is only found in wells over 25 meters deep.

However, unlike the farmers who have already "decreed a state of mourning at the death of their crops," the

Provincial Agriculture Office (DPA), contacted by our reporter in Chimoio, indicated that it believed that it was premature to call the situation that nature had dealt them a drought. All the same, the representative admitted that he had seen a report to the local provincial government informing it about the lack of rainfall. In that document that was shown to DOMINGO, a total of 18 tons of sorghum seeds were requested, to be distributed to the farmers as an alternative to the lost corn crop.

In this connection, Mario dos Santos Armando, head of the DPA's Provincial Department of Agrarian Economy, told our reporter that the sorghum seeds were in Beira port, where they were waiting to be shipped to the provincial capital of Manica. "Sorghum seeds, that are more drought-resistant, are going to be planted where the corn burned," our source said.

However, he indicated the following: "We do not want to alarm the provincial and central governments. What I mean is that if we declare a drought here in Manica at this point, I think that we would be acting against agricultural technology. It is still only a pluviometric irregularity, as the precipitation is usually more regular and abundant in the months of November, December, January, February, and March in this region. If it does not rain, then yes. But if it rains in the next few days, given the plants' current state of vegetation, there may be some harvest," Mario Armando said.

He added that: "We are conducting a survey of the districts right now. You will note that even last year we did not declare a drought until May, when everything was irretrievably lost," Armando, who is also in charge of agriculture, said in defense.

However, when engineers linked to the branches of agriculture, forestry, and wildlife serving Manica Province, who were called by the DOMINGO reporter, were told what the DPA official had said and about the situation described by him, they responded that "it was impossible to believe that. Mario Armando is simply crazy. Everything is virtually lost," they stressed. In their opinion, it would be best to give the government information as soon as possible so that it has time to take steps.

People of Dombe (Still) in Flight

About 9,000 inhabitants, including the head of Dombe administrative post, are still scattered somewhere near the Buzi River (in Sofala Province), where they have been since Dombe was taken and temporarily occupied by Renamo troops in early December of last year. Before the armed attack, that administrative post in Sussundenga district had 10,800 inhabitants, about 4,000 of whom managed to reach the headquarters of Sussundenga after a one-month trip and they are currently settled in the village of Matica.

During the flight of the people of Dombe to Buzi, about 49 km away, 38 persons died from hunger and thirst, in addition to the fact that the people were the target of repeated Renamo ambushes along the way. Last month

another group of 463 people, most of them children, also managed to reach the village of Matica, likewise after having spent a long time fleeing through the jungle.

These people are being established in three settlements under construction in Matica, and they have received assistance in the form of food and work tools from the DPCCN [Department for the Prevention and Control of Natural Disasters] and the local Rural Development Program conducted in cooperation with the Italian government. Each person receives five kg of corn meal, beans, and soap. The oldest refugees complain that they have already used up their food.

The recently settled group that was suffering from considerable malnutrition and was practically naked, was also given clothes, at the rate of three pieces for every 12 persons. This group of persons is still living without shelter, while waiting to receive boards and tents or other construction materials and farming tools.

The military situation at the headquarters of Dombe post is still explosive, despite the fact that it has been regained by the Mozambican Armed Forces. Barue, for instance, is still in the hands of Renamo.

Namibia

Delegates Discuss Walvis Bay Joint-Administration

*MB2603121592 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1038 GMT 26 Mar 92*

[By Carmen Honey]

[Text] Windhoek Mar 26 SAPA—The exploration process for the joint administration of Walvis Bay with South Africa should not be seen as a long drawn-out one that would not produce concrete results, Namibia delegation head Petrus Damaseb said in Windhoek.

He was speaking on Thursday at the start of the second meeting between South African and Namibian officials on the joint administration of the South African port enclave and 12 off-shore islands, as well as the Orange River boundary.

The joint technical committees, comprising officials from both sides, was [as received] established in December 1991.

"We, on the Namibian side, are ready to negotiate and to find a lasting solution in line with the mandate bestowed upon our committee to the the Walvis Bay problem," Mr Damaseb said.

South Africa's director-general of foreign affairs, Mr Neil van Heerden, who heads the South African delegation, said they had come to Namibia in a "constructive and positive spirit" with the "firm intention of working together to make progress in the technical committees".

Mr Van Heerden thanked Mr Dameseb for congratulations extended to the South African Government on the success of the referendum.

"I'm also happy to tell you that the spirit of reconciliation and commitment to peaceful settlement of disputes has further been consolidated in our region," Mr Van Heerden said.

The negotiating process in South Africa was "on track".

"All South Africans are hopeful that we are heading towards a new South Africa which will also mean a lot to the positive development of bilateral relations between your country and our own," Mr Van Heerden said.

Zimbabwe

UK Provides Economic Structural Adjustment Grant

MB2603082692 Johannesburg SAPA in English
0110 GMT 26 Mar 92

[Text] Harare Mar 25 SAPA—Zimbabwe and Britain on Wednesday signed an exchange agreement for grants totalling ZD [Zimbabwe dollar] 68-million for Zimbabwe's economic structural adjustment programme, drought relief and the national malaria control programme, reports ZIANA news agency.

The agreement was signed by Ministry of Finance, Economic Planning and Development Senior Permanent Secretary Elzha Mushayakarara and the British High Commissioner to Zimbabwe, Sir Kieran Prendergast.

Mr Mushayakarara said the amount would be broken down as follows:

- ZD43-million for the open general import licence support;
- ZD21.7-million for drought relief; and
- ZD3-million for the national malaria control programme.

"The ZD43-million is the second tranche of the United Kingdom's 10 million pounds pledge for structural adjustment support, which was made during the first Paris donors meeting held in March 1991," Mr Mushayakarara said.

The first tranche, also of ZD43-million, was committed in December last year and would be fully utilised by March 31 this year.

The funds, he added, were untied and would enhance government efforts to increase items on the ogil system.

He said the ZD21.7-million was the UK Government's immediate response to the Zimbabwe's call for drought relief assistance.

Finance Minister Discloses National Debt Figures

MB2503161692 Harare THE FINANCIAL GAZETTE
in English 12 Mar 92 p 2

[Text] The Senior Minister of Finance, Economic Planning and Development, Dr Bernard Chidzero, last week disclosed that Zimbabwe was (US \$3.2 billion) in debt but assured the nation that the country was not being "mortgaged" to international capital.

Responding to questions from Parliamentarians, Dr Chidzero said \$14.6 billion had been borrowed since independence and that Zimbabwe had inherited a debt of \$1.6 billion from the Muzorewa-Smith government.

Of Zimbabwe's external debt \$8.4 billion had been disbursed and \$2 billion had been committed for the Economic Structural Adjustment Programme (Esap). Zimbabwe's debt service ratio was currently 22 percent, he said.

The total disbursed debt, he said, was less than 170 percent of one year's export earnings, which was far lower than the sub-Saharan average of 340 percent, said Dr Chidzero.

At the end of last year, Zimbabwe owed about \$1 billion to the World Bank, \$321 million to the International Development Association and \$436 million to the African Development Bank.

Dr Chidzero said he was not aware of any loans which had not been used for the purposes they were intended for, as had been suggested by Mutare South MP, Mr Lazarus Nzarayebani, who asked how much of Zimbabwe's debt could not be accounted for.

Zimbabwe had recently agreed with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) for US\$460 million in the form of a standby facility.

Government Increases Petroleum Fuel Prices 26 Mar

MB2603081892 Johannesburg SAPA in English
0008 GMT 26 Mar 92

[Text] Harare March 25 SAPA—The Zimbabwe Government has with effect from midnight on Wednesday increased the price of all petroleum fuels, with petrol going up by 25.7 per cent and diesel by 10 per cent, ZIANA news agency reported on Wednesday.

Liquid petroleum gas had the highest increase, rising by 58 per cent to ZD [Zimbabwe dollars] 4.60 per kilogram. The lowest increase was illuminating paraffin which went up 1.4 per cent to 72 cents per litre.

Aviation gas had a 37 per cent increase, jet A1 went up 2.9 per cent while ethanol went up 21 per cent.

Announcing the increases on behalf of Energy and Water Resources and Development Minister Herbert Ushewokunze, the ministry's Deputy Secretary Cuthbert Zhakata cited several factors, mainly the devaluation of the Zimbabwean dollar.

"Since the last price review in April 1991, many factors have had an adverse impact on fuel prices, especially the recent devaluation of the Zimbabwe dollar against the United States dollar.

This, he said, had caused adverse effects on procurement costs for various petroleum products.

CIO Deputy Head Remanded Into Custody

*MB2503180592 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1740 GMT 25 Mar 92*

[Text] Harare March 25 SAPA—Zimbabwe Central Intelligence Organisation [CIO] Deputy Director-General Eddison Shiriuru was on Wednesday [25 March] remanded in custody to April 8 on an allegation of killing a Harare woman, Rashiwe Guzha, who went missing in May 1990. Shiriuru, 52, who last Friday was admitted to Parirenyatwa Hospital after falling ill, was not asked to plead to a charge of murder when he appeared before Harare Magistrate Billiard Musakwa, ZIANA news agency reports.

Mr Shiriuru's lawyer, I Krawley, argued that the state had insufficient grounds to suspect the crime of murder had been committed and, therefore, could not place the accused on remand. The magistrate however ruled that because police had witnesses who said there were death threats on Guzha and suggestions she might have been thrown into a river, it had therefore established a reasonable suspicion as to warrant placing Shiriuru on

remand. "The woman has been missing for the past two years and the assumption by the state is that she might have been killed," the magistrate said. After this ruling, the magistrate told the lawyer he was not going to talk about bail for Shiriuru as he was facing a very serious allegation.

Prosecutor Julian Manokore said Shiriuru had been in love with Guzha from 1986 to May 30, 1990, when she was allegedly kidnapped from a block of offices in Harare. While their affair was continuing, Guzha fell in love with another man and started denying Shiriuru entry into her house. Because of this, Manokore said, Shiriuru issued numerous death threats to her.

On May 30, 1990, Guzha was allegedly kidnapped from her place of work, and later that night, she was seen in the company of a former CIO member, Collen Ndangariro, and a serving member of the organisation, Clopus Gwinyanyi, both of whom have been arrested. From that day, Manokore said, Guzha was not seen again. Thorough searches for her both inside and outside Zimbabwe failed to lead to her whereabouts, he said. As a result of the failure to find her, the state arrived at the conclusion she should be presumed dead.

It was the state's allegation Shiriuru, Ndangariro and Budiyo [name as received] agreed in carrying out both the kidnap and possible murder of Guzha, the prosecutor said. He said Shiriuru was believed to have consulted a number of traditional healers in a bid to be exorcised from the spirit of Guzha which is said to be haunting him.

In giving his reasons for asking the court to place Shiriuru on remand, the investigating officer, Detective Assistant Inspector Wellington Chigede said some witnesses told him Shiriuru had said if Guzha persisted in rejecting him he would throw her into a river with crocodiles where she would be eaten up.

Liberia

NPFL Officers Held for ULIMO Members' Deaths

AB2503204592 Gbarnga Radio ELBC in English
1900 GMT 25 Mar 92

[Text] Four soldiers of the National Patriotic Front of Liberia [NPFL] have been arrested and detained in Gbarnga, Bong County, for allegedly executing six ULIMO [United Liberation Movement of Liberia for Democracy] suspects in Buchanan, Grand Bassa County. An Information Ministry release named the NPFL soldiers detained as Major General John Wandah, Brigadier General Wilmot Varney, Major Francis Sonii, and Colonel George Guah. The Information Ministry, which regrets the execution of the six suspects without due process of law, quotes President Taylor as saying the NPFL soldiers involved are to shortly face the military court martial, and those found guilty will face the full weight of the law.

Among those allegedly executed in Bassa, only two have been identified. They include (Abraham Jarvey) and (Emmanuel Kudjo). Prior to the arrest of the four NPFL soldiers, thousands of citizens in Buchanan on 23 and 24 March set roadblocks throughout the city, chanting: We want peace, we want justice. Schools, market places, and business centers throughout Buchanan were closed as a result of the demonstration. At the same time, the commander in chief of the NPFL, President Charles Gankay Taylor, has ordered the immediate and unconditional release of one of the dissidents of ULIMO arrested by security forces of the NPRA [National Patriotic Reconstruction Assembly].

Addressing thousands of citizens in Buchanan, Grand Bassa County, President Taylor said, based on his principle of truth telling, he was releasing Solomon Benson. The Liberian leader explained to the people of Buchanan that most young Liberians were fooled into joining ULIMO by some self-seeking politicians in Monrovia and their foreign friends. Benson, who was a son of Grand Bassa County, thanked President Taylor for his release and promised not to betray the Liberian revolution again. Because, according to him, all of his parents live in greater Liberia.

[In a related, Monrovia-dated report, Paris AFP in English at 1737 GMT on 25 March adds: "The NPFL has mounted 21 checkpoints on the Kakata-Monrovia highway in the wake of intensified attacks against the Front by ULIMO, travellers told AFP Wednesday. The two major roads, which have been closed between Monrovia and the rest of the country for the last two years, were reopened in early January and NPFL checkpoints were removed. Taylor has made no announcement about the new checkpoints. Witnesses arriving here from several parts of the country also said unspecified numbers of persons have been arrested by NPFL fighters, accusing them of being ULIMO spies."]

INPFL's Leader Discusses Sawyer, ECOMOG

AB2503220092 Gbarnga Radio ELBC in English
1900 GMT 25 Mar 92

[Text] The leader of the Independent National Patriotic Front of Liberia [INPFL], Major General Prince Johnson, has described Dr. Amos Sawyer as the principal supporter of dissident forces of ULIMO [United Liberation Movement of Liberia for Democracy]. Gen. Johnson told LBS [Liberian Broadcasting System] news that Amos Sawyer has overstepped his bounds as a caretaker by extending open support for ULIMO dissidents, thus prolonging the peace process.

[Begin Johnson recording] Sawyer is nothing but a doctor, a degree he earned, but he has been presiding over the state of affairs in Monrovia. [sentence as heard] He is just a caretaker who is obliged or mandated to unify or reconcile the Liberian people's differences and to bring the nation together. But he is not doing it. He is supporting ULIMO. He is the principal supporter of ULIMO, with Dr. Fahnbulleh and all of his group. And so, I do not see the need right now for.... [Johnson changes thought] I mean there is no peace from my personal assessment. [end recording]

The INPFL leader said he has also arrested some supporters of ULIMO who were carrying food for their trainees at the Deaf and Dumb Center and also at the (Brombley) Mission on the outskirts of Monrovia. Gen. Johnson also questioned the role of ECOMOG [Economic Community of West African States Cease-Fire Monitoring Group] as a peacekeeping force, saying: A peacekeeper should not be encouraging war. Regarding the role of ECOMOG in light of the security situation in the country, Gen. Johnson was quick in pointing out that elements within ECOMOG are supporting ULIMO attacks, specifically referring to Sierra Leonean troops.

[Begin Johnson recording] I would prefer that, generally, the ECOMOG would take over the security of our country, provided that some of elements of the ECOMOG will not involve with ULIMO attacks, (?and they are) mainly Freetown, Sierra Leone troops. Now, if we fight Sierra Leone, his troops are there; Momoh troops are there to defend Freetown, Sierra Leone, as a whole. And they also have the Sierra Leonean troops right here. So, nobody will want to expect any good thing from the Sierra Leonean contingent here. [end recording]

Meanwhile, the INPFL leader says he welcomes the planned meeting of ECOWAS [Economic Community of West African States] leaders, but warned that if the meeting is geared toward ordering ECOMOG to move into NPFL territory, or to take some military action, it would result into a protracted war in Liberia.

Recently, President Charles Gankay Taylor said any renewed outbreak of fighting in Liberia would be catastrophic, but assured the Liberian nation not to panic as the NPFL will safeguard their interests should another war break out in this country.

Mail

Head of State Toure Gives Anniversary Speech

*AB2503230092 Bamako Radiodiffusion-Television
du Mali Radio in French 2055 GMT 25 Mar 92*

[Speech by Lieutenant Colonel Amadou Toumani Toure, head of state and president of the Transition Committee for the Salvation of the People, CTSP, in Bamako on 25 March—recorded]

[Text] Dear compatriots: It is one year now since our people brought to an end 23 years of a regime's autocratic rule—a regime which had resorted to bloody dictatorship in its last months. On this solemn occasion, it behooves me to address, on behalf of Malians, a deep-felt and grateful thought to those who, in the last few years, have paid with their lives, for the attainment of freedom and democracy in our country. This has made it possible for us to express the ardent hope that nothing will happen in the new Mali to betray the memory of the martyrs and render their sacrifices in vain. On the threshold of the Third Republic, 26 March is not only a victory to commemorate. This victory, which is known to all the Malian people, constitutes our reference point in relation to a past which will never again return, and a future that we must build.

There is one reminder that we must always keep in mind, if we want to remain faithful to the ideals that geared us up against autocracy. There is also the testimony of the quality of moral and human resources of a people who a despot did not want to see [words indistinct].

Thus, one year after the fall of the former regime, the message of 26 March to our people demands the duty of not forgetting, but also the strength to forgive and the obligation to carry on to the end. The duty of memory for our young democracy is vital, because our country's history is strewn with disappointed hopes, of assurances that are given and then forgotten—the strength to forgive and to reconcile with ourselves, because there cannot be a lasting democracy without civil peace and national cohesion.

The duty of finishing the democratic renewal requires the reform through new forms of expression, consultation, and decisionmaking, and political decisionmaking, in other words, building a veritable political and economic society of democracy.

Dear compatriots, the tragedies that we have lived are born of situations that saw the leaders becoming dictators and the people forced to suffer. These situations did not occur in a day. They are the fruit of a decadence that saw freedoms confiscated, rights trampled one after the other, the arbitrary—need we recall—moved from the state of banality before becoming unbearable. So, the Malian people must remain vigilant. We will never again accept a dictatorship in any form whatsoever. The tribute that we have paid in two decades obliges us to this, and the love that we have for Mali imposes this on us.

The new authorities should bear in mind that they are essentially custodians of a power entrusted to them by the people, and Malians must remember henceforth that they can and must control their [word indistinct]. These (?mandatory) relations between the government and the governed will forestall a recurrence of the past trend.

Dear countrymen, at this time of reflection, I would like to give the assurance that justice will be rendered to our people and that the [word indistinct] of the victims of repression will not be (in vain). But I maintain that since justice cannot be synonymous with vengeance, the Transition Committee for the Salvation of the People and the government believe that justice for our people and the honor and credibility of our young democracy recommend that we conduct the trial of former dignitaries in strict compliance with the law. In this regard, I would also like to draw the attention of everyone to the dangers of lumping together the patronizers of killings and violence and the Armed Forces and security services.

By agreeing on 25 March 1991 to oust the Moussa Traore regime, the Armed Forces and security services, in unison, gave me unflinching and unconditional support to enable our people to recover their dignity and put in place a democratic regime. The Army, in this manner, (?carried out an act) in harmony with its duty—that of safeguarding our system and the best interests of the Malian people. When the time comes to refer to the history of the coming of democracy to Africa, an account will be taken of the fact that the Army's role [words indistinct] was decisive and essential and that, having taken its stand by the side of its people, it contributes to safeguarding and consolidating the democratic gains.

Dear countrymen, concerning the (?reform) process initiated on 12 January last [as heard] year with the constitutional referendum, we must admit today that we wanted to go too fast and that the impact of the events of 1991 on the [words indistinct] and the administrative machinery—which virtually no longer had any control over the country—were much more profound than we thought. [Word indistinct] the various changes made in the timetable are nothing but the consequence of this state of affairs, with implications for the duration of the transition period.

This is to say that the reforms were singularly motivated by the desire to remove as many areas of misunderstanding as possible in order to give the government that will come to power the legitimacy needed to enable it to ensure affairs of state will run smoothly. We [words indistinct] about the various consultations and some imperfections around these decisions. We thought we had acted in the most objective manner with the hope that history will prove us right. This is because we have assessed the importance of our historical responsibilities.

Every Malian national must feel concerned by the demands of our young democracy by ensuring through their active participation the [words indistinct] which have put the [words indistinct].

In this way, all our energy and efforts to [word indistinct] situation that the transitional government will hand over to elected government will help our the government to face the future, the future of us all, with assurance.

My fellow countrymen, [words indistinct] a new Mali due to an exceptionally comforting issue which I have the honor to announce to you. It is a peace agreement which was reached this very day with the United Azawad Movement and Front which has brought about peace and reconciliation among the sons of Mali as well as the support for the institutional framework that we have just adopted. In the perspective of this agreement drafted in Algiers, which will be signed soon in Mali, I would like each of you to ensure a sentiment of harmony [words indistinct]

Dear fellow countrymen, to conclude, permit me in this holy month of fasting to wish you from the bottom of my heart [words indistinct] inspire in us all courage, tolerance, and lucidity. [sentence indistinct]

Details of Malian-Touareg Peace Accord Outlined

LD2503205892 Algiers Radio Algiers Network
in Arabic 1730 GMT 25 Mar 92

[Report by Nouredine Mosadak on peace agreement reached on 25 March following the third round of talks between the Malian Government and the Touareg Azawad movement with Algerian mediation]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] The Malian Government and the Unified Azawad Movements and Fronts reached agreement at dawn today in Algiers on the release of prisoners and on the preparations of the lists of experts participating in the investigating committee and in the preparation of a peace agreement and its approval. The two sides, which held several meetings between 15-25 March, in the presence of mediating representatives from Algeria, made it clear in a joint communique today that they will officially exchange lists of prisoners whose release will begin as of 8 April in the region of Bordj Bedji Mokhtar in Algeria. As for determining the lists of experts forming the investigating committee, delay was noticed in choosing independent international experts due to hold a meeting and also experts from the two parties to the dispute, within the framework of the investigating committee. In addition, the two sides agreed to prepare a peace agreement and to approve it under the name of a national alliance. The agreement will be signed on 9 April in Bamako once each side has referred it to its commissioner. On the other hand, the final communique made it clear that the peace agreement, which will be published on the occasion of its signing, is considered a document which determines the conditions of ending the fighting in northern Mali and also conditions liable to prevent any threat which could

undermine the security and property of individuals there. Moreover, it determines the process of repatriation and reintegrtaion of individuals who had been expelled from their dwellings.

The communique contained several other points, including the issues of management on the local and regional level and the legal course thereof within the framework of consolidation of Malian national unity and the security of its territory on the one hand, and of cultural, social, and economic development in northern Mali, on the other. The agreement stipulated in conclusion that the determination of a timetable and other arrangements liable to guarantee its comprehensive legal implementation in accordance with the spirit which marked the negotiations.

Following the meeting, the head of the Malian Government delegation made a statement to the national radio:

[Begin delegation head recording in French fading into Arabic translation] The Algerian Government's support in resolving the crisis between the brothers-enemies, the Malians and the Touaregs, was important. We noted with great satisfaction that the issue was registered within the framework of African unity as it did not have great international resonance.

Implementation of the agreement will be effective because there is a serious will, on the part of the Malian and Algerian Governments and also of our Touareg brothers, to resolve this crisis. We are certain that the problem will find its solution because measures of implementing the agreement will be at one with the will of the parties concerned. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Niger

Interior Minister on Transitional Government

LD2503204292 Paris Radio France International
in French 1230 GMT 24 Mar 92

[Interview with Niger Interior Minister Mohamed Moussa by correspondent Diane Gallio; place and date not given—live or recorded]

[Text] [Moussa] I think that the decision taken by the prime minister is very appropriate. As you no doubt know, the transitional government was set up following a sovereign national conference, and the essential condition of a transitional government was the social truce accepted by all elements in the nation. It seems to me that for a while this social truce has been put in [word indistinct] by all the political and even union forces.

[Gallio] Is this perhaps a way of putting the social and union forces up against the wall?

[Moussa] I do not think that it is a question of putting them up against the wall. It may be a question of catching our breath; above all, to set up the bases of a new consensus. This reshuffle or dissolution of the

government would appear to fully fall into the logic of a transition [word indistinct] because we are, it should be said, in the fifth month of government, and I am well aware that few of the other transitional governments have lasted longer than five months without a reshuffle.

[Gallio] The transitional authorities are at the moment under social pressure, pressure from the street in a manner of speaking, as there are several hundred teachers who are on strike, but they are also under pressure from the army. Is it not dangerous to take such a decision, since it will create a vacuum in the country's leadership?

[Moussa] No, there is absolutely no vacuum in the country's leadership. We have the Higher Council of the Republic elected by the National Conference, which has in no way been called into question by any groups in particular, and we also have a prime minister elected by the National Conference, whom nobody is bringing into question. Consequently, a government reshuffle is something that in my opinion is totally normal. You also mention certain pressures from the military. It is true that we have been subjected to all sorts of pressures. It is true that this transitional government has tried as far as possible to [word indistinct] all these pressures and to watch over the nation's interests, and we think that we have done all that has been humanly possible to try to set the country moving in the right direction, because the country really did start off badly.

[Gallio] When you speak about pressures from the army, that leads me to put to you a question about the conditional release of Captain Maliki Bouraima—that was a decision taken this weekend by the government and the Higher Council of the Republic. It was a decision taken under pressure from the military, I believe.

[Moussa] Evidently. You are quite right. Whatever form has been given to his conditional release, I believe that it is in fact a conditional release obtained under duress.

[Gallio] Mohamed Moussa, you are one of those who initiated the dialogue with the Touareg rebels. Does the dissolution of the government not bring with it the risk of threatening this opening up of a dialogue, above all at a time when we know that a considerable number of army reinforcements have moved up to the north?

[Moussa] I remain convinced that the only possible path, the only path which it is worth pursuing in order to find an honorable solution for this country is in fact to hold a dialogue. I do not believe that one way or another, another path, particularly that of force, can resolve these problems. I believe there is no worse war than a war of the poor. In Niger today we are one of poorest countries in the world. We know that both on the government side and on the rebel side the only thing which we have to lose is perhaps our lives. So, it is a war of the destitute; is this what we must envisage? Can this provide a solution to the problems raised by the Touareg rebellion? I am not convinced of this. I am one of those who believe that if we want to maintain the integrity of this territory, if we want to safeguard the unity of this

country, if we want to ensure that we are able to resolve the problems, which indeed are very delicate and painful for the people of Niger, then the only path, the only path of honor and dignity is that of pursuing the path of dialogue. I remain convinced and I hope that whoever has responsibility for the security of these territories will take this fact into account.

[Gallio] Have you been approached by the prime minister to become part of the new government team?

[Moussa] Here you are asking me a question which is altogether premature. I am Nigerien, I am ready to serve my country. If the prime minister calls on me again, then I will consider the question at that time, and I will give him my reply according to the policy which it is envisaged to implement from this point on.

I am one of those whose choices are quite clear when it comes to the political direction of this country. This is moreover why I said just now that the only path for this country is the path of dialogue to resolve the problem of the Touareg rebellion, because as you must know perfectly well, if we began a war today, if we believe that force resolves problems, that would considerably compromise the democratization which we envisage, and in particular the various elections which we envisage holding in perhaps less than 10 months from now. So, I am someone who certainly has many options and many principles when it comes to the political arena. It will certainly not be a reply given lightly.

Nigeria

Government Adopts Measures To Reduce 'Hardship'

AB2503181092 Lagos Radio Nigeria Network
in English 2100 GMT 24 Mar 92

[Text] The Federal Government has introduced measures to reduce the hardship being experienced by people as a result of the recent foreign exchange market reforms. In a statement in Lagos today, the vice president, Admiral Augustus Aikhomu, said duty rates on various items in health, transport, industrial, and agricultural sectors are either being completely eliminated or substantially reduced. Admiral Aikhomu said that the essential drug list will now apply to the drug stocks of public hospitals only, while individuals were free to import and use drugs prescribed by qualified medical doctors. In addition, the Federal Government will assist state and local governments to provide drugs in their hospitals. Duties on imported commercial vehicles will now be calculated on the basis of their value instead of former capacity rating. Duties on all cars imported between now and December, will attract 18 percent rebate. Also, spare parts and CKD [Completely Knocked Down] components for commercial vehicles are to be duty free.

Admiral Aikhomu announced that spare parts and CKD components for industrial machinery, imported during the period would also be duty free. The vice president explained that in order to alleviate the pains experienced by students with respect to transportation, the government would provide three buses for universities or tertiary institutions for efficient campus transportation. He warned that the government would continue to take measures to curb the unpatriotic activities of some middlemen, importers, and manufacturers who exploited any given situation to amass wealth. Admiral Aikhomu expressed the hope that the laudable measures would be allowed to have the intended beneficial effect.

NEC Empowered To Disqualify Election Candidates

*AB2503173692 Lagos Radio Nigeria Network
in English 0600 GMT 25 Mar 92*

[Text] A decree which empowers the National Electoral Commission [NEC] to disqualify any person standing for an election has been promulgated. The decree is cited as Participation in Politics and Elections Miscellaneous Provisions Amendment Decree 6 of 1992.

It also empowers NEC to issue guidelines with respect to the conduct of party primaries, irrespective of the provisions in the constitutions of the two political parties. The commission has power under the decree to accept or cancel the report of any primary presented to it by the political parties.

Commencement Date of 1989 Constitution Postponed

*AB2503173092 Lagos Radio Nigeria Network
in English 0600 GMT 25 Mar 92*

[Text] The date for the commencement of the 1989 Constitution has been shifted to the second of January next year. It was previously scheduled to commence from the first of October this year. The new date is contained in the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria Promulgation Decree 10 of 1992 which amends the earlier one.

Also promulgated is the Legal Practitioners' Amendment Decree 8 of 1992 which allows a noncitizen of Nigeria to be called to the Nigerian bar. The decree amends the Legal Practitioners' Act which had precluded foreign nationals to practice the legal profession in Nigeria.

The attorney general and minister of justice, Mr. Clement Akpamgbu, said in Lagos yesterday that the gesture was prompted by the leading role of Nigeria in Africa.

Journalists Boycott Police After Editor's Arrest

*AB2603065092 Paris AFP in English 1245 GMT
24 Mar 92*

[Text] Lagos, March 24 (AFP)—The Nigerian Union of Journalists (NUJ) ordered a boycott of the police in

southern Oyo state in protest against the arrest of the editor of Nigeria's oldest independent newspaper, Folu Olamiti.

The journalists are also protesting against the prosecution of the NIGERIAN TRIBUNE's deputy editor, Victor Antwi, on a charge of incitement, according to a statement by the NUJ, reported here by the official NEWS AGENCY OF NIGERIA (NAN).

The union ordered its members not to attend a police press conference scheduled for Ibadan Tuesday, NAN said.

Folu was arrested in Ibadan last Friday over a story the Nigerian Tribune published Wednesday in which it alleged that Ibadan, the second largest city in West Africa, was under police siege. He was granted conditional release on the same day but asked to report to the police this week.

The article alleged that residents of the city were "living under the fear of incessant police raids" that began about three weeks ago.

It said that plain-clothes police have begun to arrest people at random on the streets in the evening and released them only after they "have paid their way".

Togo

Cabinet Views Police Strike, Voter Registration

*AB2503210592 Lome Radio Lome in French
1900 GMT 25 Mar 92*

[Communique from the Council of Ministers read by spokesman Georges Yaovi Dege in Lome on 25 March—recorded]

[Text] The government held a Cabinet meeting today, 25 March, at the Palais de l'Entente. During this meeting, the government first heard a report by the minister of territorial administration and security on the domestic situation. In this regard, the government finds unacceptable the attitude of the policemen who, without first initiating negotiations, embarked irregularly on a strike, terrorizing the population with weapons meant for protecting people. The government calls on the policemen to end their strike immediately before any discussions on their demands are initiated.

The government also learned with bitterness about the attacks suffered by some members of the High Council of the Republic during the recent tour of the interior by the Democracy Caravan, especially at Sotouboua and Blitta. The Council of Ministers strongly denounces and condemns such unacceptable acts which could compromise the ongoing democratic process, which we all want to be peaceful. The government wishes to remind all citizens that tolerance and respect for institutions and the men who head them remain the cardinal virtues of any form of democracy.

The government then considered the problems of victims of sociopolitical disturbances and examined ways and means of resolving them. To this end, the government decided that a credit of 100 million CFA francs be released to support emergency relief operations, particularly in the health and social spheres.

The Council of Ministers also heard a report by the minister of national education and scientific research on the situation at the university campus and the steps to take to reopen the University of Benin. The government also passed five decrees on acquiring Togolese citizenship.

Finally, the government heard a report by the secretary of state for territorial administration and security in charge of elections on the conduct of the voters registration exercise. On this issue, the government wishes to express its warm congratulations to the organizers, the enumerators, and the entire Togolese population which demonstrated a high sense of discipline, thereby enabling the exercise to be conducted smoothly in an atmosphere of calm and serenity. The Council of Ministers also notes with delight the spirit of consultation which guided the transition organs during the exercise. Once again, the Togolese people have just clearly demonstrated their determination to enter a truly democratic era through the holding of free and fair elections. Issued in Lome on 25 March 1992.

[Signed] The Council of Ministers.

Further on Police Strike Over Salary Situation

Journa!ists Threatened

AB2503214092 Lome Radio Lome in French
1900 GMT 25 Mar 92

[Excerpt] As you know, Togolese policemen were on strike yesterday and today. Thus, today, at least until midday, they continued their strike, which consisted in blocking some highways in Lome and disrupting traffic. This pressure, according to them, was to help back their salary-related demands. Perhaps, you also know that this morning, a meeting was expected to bring together the strikers and the minister of territorial administration and security—the one in charge of police—as well as the minister delegate to the prime minister for the Togolese Armed Forces. But the policemen failed to report for the meeting, and the two ministers waited in vain for their interlocutors who preferred to go spread panic in the various districts of the city. They even did worse than that—they forced people out of the CADES [expansion unknown] offices and blocked all access to the administrative district.

At midday, however, the events took a dramatic turn. The authorities raised their tone. A communique was issued by the president of the Republic and the prime minister, ordering the striking policemen to lay down their arms immediately before it was too late—these were the very words of that urgent warning, which, apparently, the strikers quickly heeded. Thus, the

metallic roadblocks mounted on the highways disappeared immediately, and traffic resumed somehow in those areas.

The tally of this police unrest has reached about 15 injured, with many cases of looting. Hospital sources tonight were still unable to specify how those people were injured. This morning, inhabitants of some downtown districts of Lome testified that they had seen groups of policemen loot some bars and gas stations.

And as it is always the case in these kinds of events, the police unrest of the past 48 hours also had its side effects. Indeed, during most of this morning, this strike changed into a polemic between Radio Lome's journalists and the strikers. The policemen did not at all like the phrase wildcat strike used in this early morning's newscast at 0600. They intermittently phoned, threatening to kill a number of journalists. Everything was tried in vain to explain to them that the term wildcat strike was not as pejorative as they thought. The editorial service had then to resort to specialists in strike matters to explain certain related notions to them. [passage omitted]

Army, Gendarmerie at Strategic Points

AB2603150592 Lome Radio Lome in French
1230 GMT 26 Mar 92

[Text] The situation has returned to normal in Lome after 48 hours of a strike initiated by policemen, a strike whose consequences were deplorable and whose outcome was unpredictable. Normalcy returned following the ultimatum issued jointly by General Gnassingbe Eyadema, supreme commander of the Armed Forces; and Joseph Kokou Koffigoh, minister of defense. In the ultimatum, they ordered the policemen to lay down their arms and return to the negotiation table.

In pursuance of the contingency plans in connection with the ultimatum, members of the Army and the Gendarmerie took up position at strategic points of the capital today at dawn. Traffic is currently heavy but smooth, although people formed groups around the Central Police Station and the National Security Headquarters this morning to watch the policemen's reaction. At these two places and at the CADEF [expansion unknown], Army and Gendarmerie forces are closely monitoring the situation, ready to move in to stop any fresh action likely to disrupt the movement of persons and property and smooth socioeconomic activities in the capital.

Central Police Station Stormed

AB2603164092 Paris AFP in French 1601 GMT
26 Mar 92

[Text] Lome, 26 Mar (AFP)—Shortly before 1500 today, a detachment of gendarmes stormed the premises of the Lome Central Police Station where several dozen policemen have been staging a protest strike since 24 March. The attack was very short-lived and was marked by sporadic firing of tear gas and by gunshots. According to a gendarme, policemen fired these gunshots. He said

three of his colleagues were wounded in their arms and legs. At 1504 local time, an AFP reporter noticed that the gendarmes had taken control of the premises and were ejecting several dozen policemen from the police station. With their hands up, the latter were evacuated—sometimes brutally—and seemed to have been taken away on foot to a gendarme camp 200 meters from the Central Police Station.

Police Headquarters Building Occupied

AB2603174092 Paris AFP in French 1652 GMT
26 Mar 92

[Text] Lome, 26 Mar (AFP)—Shortly before 1600, about a hundred Gendarmes occupied, without violence, the

Lome Police Headquarters building containing several dozen striking policemen. No gunshots were heard during the operation. The armed gendarmes took position in front of and inside the building and parked trucks near the main gate. From the street, one could count about 50 policemen gathered in the main courtyard. There was no brutality or violence, and some of the policemen were even arguing with the gendarmes. The road in front of the building, which has been closed with iron barriers since 24 March by the striking policemen, was reopened to traffic amid applause from residents of the district. Earlier, a detachment of gendarmes had stormed the premises of the Lome Central Police Station which had been occupied by striking policemen.

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